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AUS. N.Z. 25c

Commando

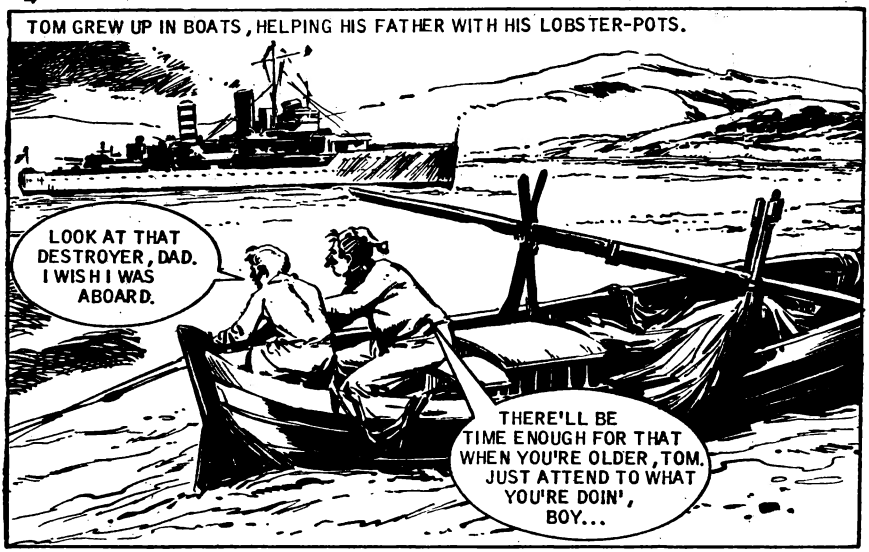
WAR STORIES IN PICTURES

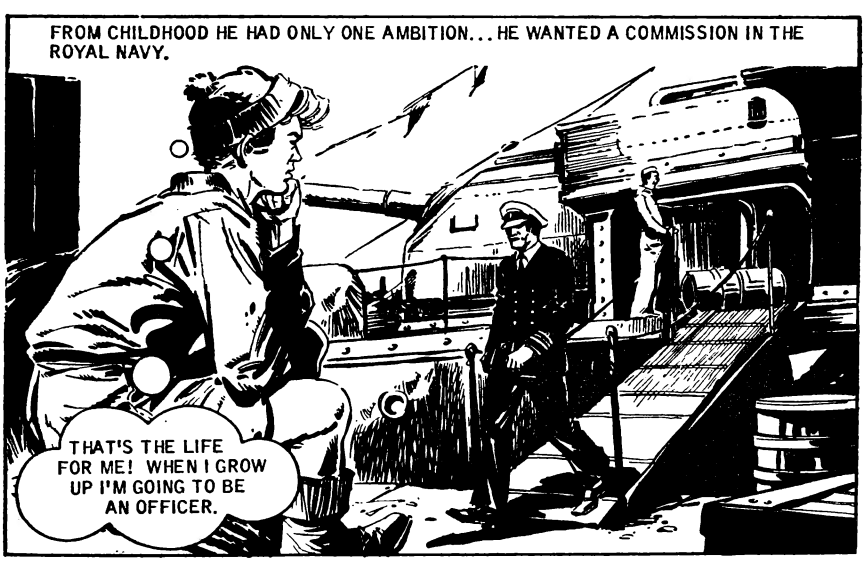
THE SECRET SUBS

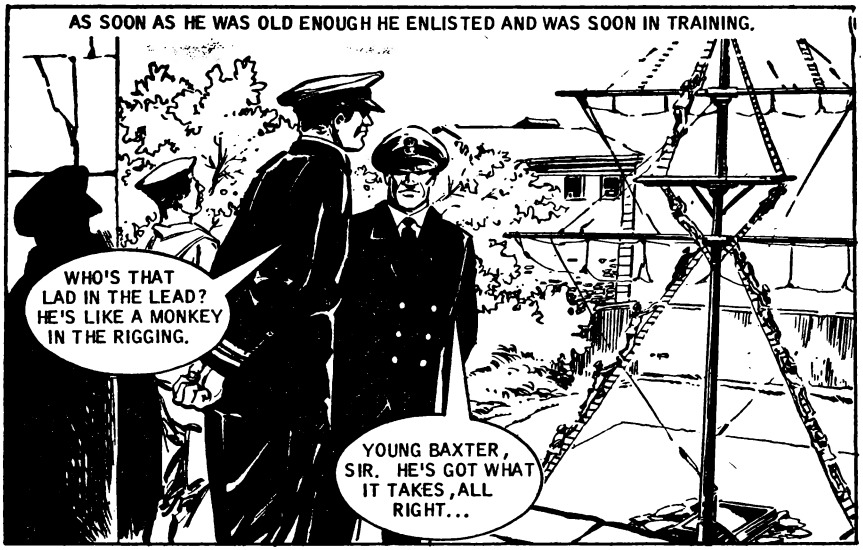
Stars of Speedway—Gordon Kennett

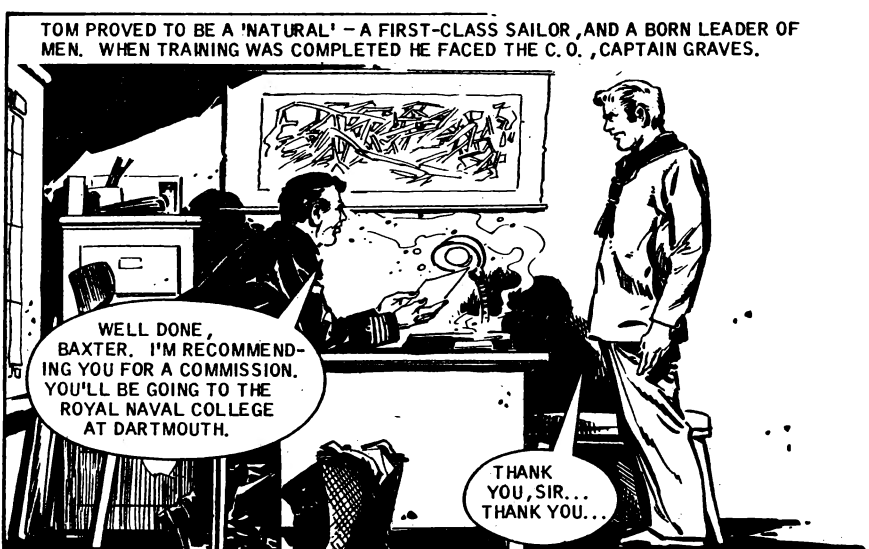
BITTERLY HOSTILE TO THE WAY THE ROYAL NAVY HAD TREATED HIM, ORDINARY SEAMAN TOM BAXTER'S ONLY CONCERN WAS HIS OWN SURVIVAL. BUT FATE SELECTED HIM FOR ONE OF THE MOST DANGEROUS AND HAIR-RAISING MISSIONS OF THE SECOND WORLD WAR – TO ATTACK A JAP NAVAL BASE CRAMMED WITH SECRET WEAPONS. AND ALL HE HAD TO HELP HIM WAS HIS OWN COURAGE, A HARD-BITTEN CHIEF PETTY OFFICER AND A FEW HASTILY-TRAINED NATIVES.

THE SECRET SUBS

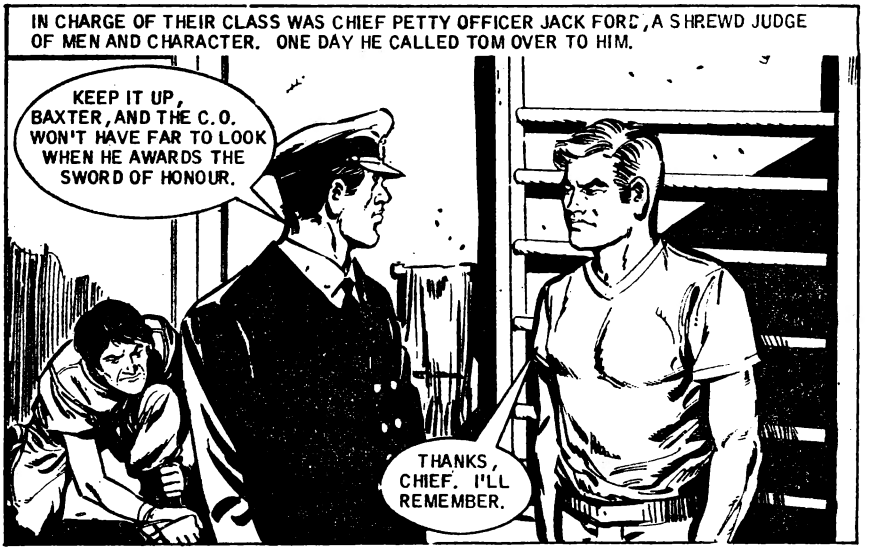

TOM GREW UP IN BOATS, HELPING HIS FATHER WITH HIS LOBSTER-POTS.
LOOK AT THAT DESTROYER, DAD. I WISH I WAS ABOARD.
THERE'LL BE TIME ENOUGH FOR THAT WHEN YOU'RE OLDER, TOM. JUST ATTEND TO WHAT YOU'RE DOIN', BOY...

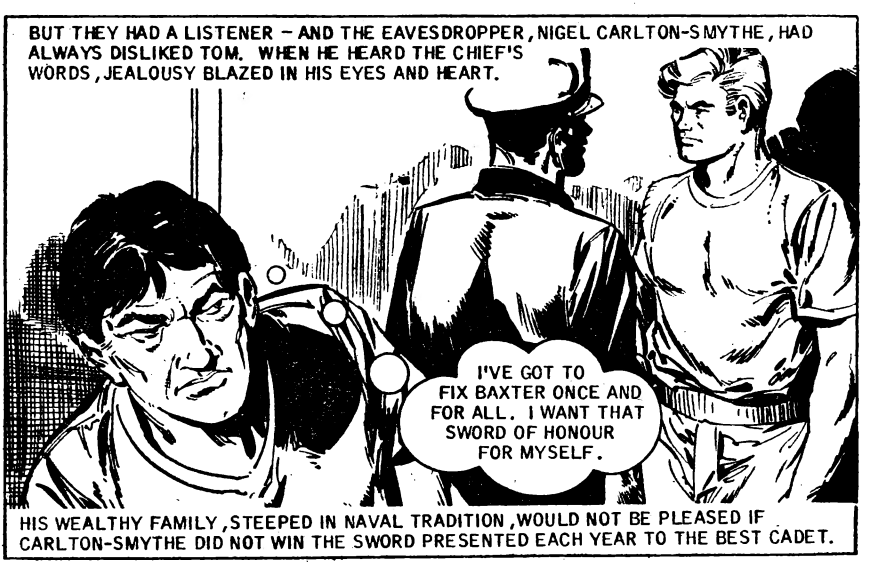

FROM CHILDHOOD HE HAD ONLY ONE AMBITION... HE WANTED A COMMISSION IN THE ROYAL NAVY.
THAT'S THE LIFE FOR ME! WHEN I GROW UP I'M GOING TO BE AN OFFICER.

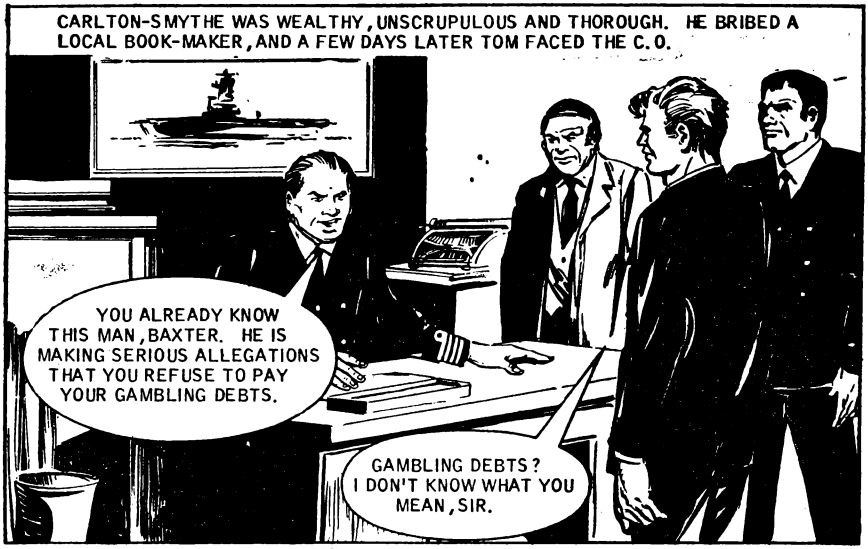

AS SOON AS HE WAS OLD ENOUGH HE ENLISTED AND WAS SOON IN TRAINING.
WHO'S THAT LAD IN THE LEAD? HE'S LIKE A MONKEY IN THE RIGGING.
YOUNG BAXTER, SIR. HE'S GOT WHAT IT TAKES, ALL RIGHT...


TOM PROVED TO BE A 'NATURAL' – A FIRST-CLASS SAILOR, AND A BORN LEADER OF MEN. WHEN TRAINING WAS COMPLETED HE FACED THE C.O., CAPTAIN GRAVES.
WELL DONE, BAXTER. I'M RECOMMENDING YOU FOR A COMMISSION. YOU'LL BE GOING TO THE ROYAL NAVAL COLLEGE AT DARTMOUTH.
THANK YOU, SIR... THANK YOU...

AND AT DARTMOUTH TOM FOUND CHALLENGE AND SATISFACTION IN EVERY ASPECT OF THE COMPLICATED TRAINING HE HAD TO DO.
SIGNALS...
NAVIGATION...
LEADERSHIP...
SEAMANSHIP...
...AND HE SHONE AT THEM ALL.


IN CHARGE OF THEIR CLASS WAS CHIEF PETTY OFFICER JACK FORD, A SHREWD JUDGE OF MEN AND CHARACTER. ONE DAY HE CALLED TOM OVER TO HIM.
KEEP IT UP, BAXTER, AND THE C.O. WON'T HAVE FAR TO LOOK WHEN HE AWARDS THE SWORD OF HONOUR.
THANKS, CHIEF. I'LL REMEMBER.


BUT THEY HAD A LISTENER – AND THE EAVESDROPPER, NIGEL CARLTON-SMYTHE, HAD ALWAYS DISLIKED TOM. WHEN HE HEARD THE CHIEF'S WORDS, JEALOUSY BLAZED IN HIS EYES AND HEART.
I'VE GOT TO FIX BAXTER ONCE AND FOR ALL. I WANT THAT SWORD OF HONOUR FOR MYSELF.
HIS WEALTHY FAMILY, STEEPED IN NAVAL TRADITION, WOULD NOT BE PLEASED IF CARLTON-SMYTHE DID NOT WIN THE SWORD PRESENTED EACH YEAR TO THE BEST CADET.


CARLTON-SMYTHE WAS WEALTHY, UNSCRUPULOUS AND THOROUGH. HE BRIBED A LOCAL BOOK-MAKER, AND A FEW DAYS LATER TOM FACED THE C.O.
YOU ALREADY KNOW THIS MAN, BAXTER. HE IS MAKING SERIOUS ALLEGATIONS THAT YOU REFUSE TO PAY YOUR GAMBLING DEBTS.
GAMBLING DEBTS? I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU MEAN, SIR.

THE BOOK-MAKER WAS BEING WELL PAID. HE PLAYED HIS PART CONVINCINGLY.
THAT'S HIM ALL RIGHT, GUV. AND THAT'S HIS SIGNATURE ON THEM I.O.U.s I GAVE YOU.
BUT I'VE NEVER SEEN YOU IN MY LIFE BEFORE...

THE CAPTAIN THRUST SEVERAL BETTING SLIPS IN FRONT OF TOM'S STARTLED EYES.
DO YOU DENY THIS IS YOUR SIGNATURE?
WELL, IT... IT LOOKS LIKE MY SIGNATURE, BUT I DIDN'T WRITE IT, SIR...

CAPTAIN HANSON HAD FACED SIMILAR SITUATIONS BEFORE. RELUCTANTLY HE DECIDED ON HIS COURSE OF ACTION.
IN VIEW OF YOUR RECORD I WILL OVERLOOK THIS INCIDENT, BUT YOU'LL REPAY WHAT YOU OWE.
BUT I DON'T GAMBLE, SIR. THIS IS ALL A MISTAKE. I... ER... I WISH TO TAKE IT FURTHER, SIR.

THE C.O.'s FACE HARDENED.
IF YOU TAKE THIS FURTHER AND ARE FOUND GUILTY, YOUR CAREER HERE IS FINISHED. ACCEPT MY DECISION, AND YOU WILL HAVE A CHANCE TO REDEEM YOURSELF.

MINUTES LATER, STILL DAZED AND BEWILDERED, TOM FOUND HIMSELF IN THE CORRIDOR WITH JACK FORD BESIDE HIM.
CAPTAIN
I WAS FRAMED, CHIEF. I DON'T KNOW HOW – BUT I WAS FRAMED.
I BELIEVE YOU, LAD, BUT YOU'LL HAVE A HARD TIME PROVING IT.
BUT CARLTON-SMYTHE HADN'T FINISHED WITH TOM. HE WOULD NOT BE SATISFIED UNTIL TOM WAS KICKED OUT.
WHEN I REPORT THIS MONEY STOLEN AND IT IS FOUND IN BAXTER'S LOCKER HE WILL HAVE SOME EXPLAINING TO DO.
A FEW HOURS LATER, AFTER CARLTON-SMYTHE HAD REPORTED THE MONEY MISSING, A THOROUGH SEARCH WAS CARRIED OUT.
I WONDER WHO TOOK THE MONEY. ANYWAY, I'M IN THE CLEAR.
IT'S BAXTER'S TURN NEXT. THAT STUPID SMIRK WILL SOON BE WIPED OFF HIS FACE.

JUST AS CARLTON-SMYTHE HAD PLANNED, THE HIDDEN MONEY WAS QUICKLY FOUND IN TOM'S LOCKER – AND HIS PROTESTS WERE IN VAIN.
WHERE DID YOU GET THESE FROM, BAXTER?
HOW DID THAT GET IN MY LOCKER? I KNOW NOTHING AT ALL ABOUT IT, SIR, HONESTLY!
CAPTAIN HANSON AND HIS SENIOR OFFICERS SIFTED THROUGH THE EVIDENCE; AND UNFORTUNATELY REACHED THE WRONG CONCLUSION.
THIS IS A VERY SAD AND SERIOUS CASE. THE EVIDENCE SUGGESTS THAT YOU STOLE THIS MONEY TO PAY YOUR GAMBLING DEBTS.
BLIMEY, THE POOR KID'S IN FOR A COURT-MARTIAL! HE'LL GET THE GLASS-HOUSE FOR SURE.

BUT TOM'S PREVIOUS RECORD HELPED ONCE AGAIN AND THE COURT DECIDED TO BE AS LENIENT AS THEY COULD.

YOUR CAREER AT DARTMOUTH IS OVER, BAXTER. YOU WILL BE TRANSFERRED TO ACTIVE SERVICE WITH A SEVERE REPRIMAND ON YOUR RECORD.
KICKED OUT – FOR A CRIME I DIDN'T COMMIT.

BITTERNESS AND RESENTMENT SEEPED INTO HIS SOUL. RIGHT, HE THOUGHT – IF THAT WAS HOW THE NAVY PLAYED THE GAME THEN HE WOULD PLAY IT THE SAME WAY.

FROM THAT MOMENT TOM BAXTER BECAME A CHANGED MAN, AND QUICKLY EARNED A REPUTATION FOR BEING SOUR, INSOLENT AND LAZY.

TROUBLESOME CHARACTERS BECOME FLOTSAM – UNWANTED BITS OF RUBBISH – AS SUCCESSIVE COMMANDERS GET RID OF THEM...AND AS TOM BAXTER'S REPUTATION GREW, SO DID THE BITTERNESS IN HIS HEART.

SO YOU'RE BAXTER, EH? WE'VE HEARD ABOUT YOU, MATE. I RECKON THE NAVY CAN DO WITHOUT BLOKES LIKE YOU.
AND I CAN DO WITHOUT THE NAVY, SO WE'RE EVEN.

WHEN WAR CAME TO EUROPE, TOM WAS ABOARD H. M. DESTROYER "SCORCHER", IN THE PACIFIC.

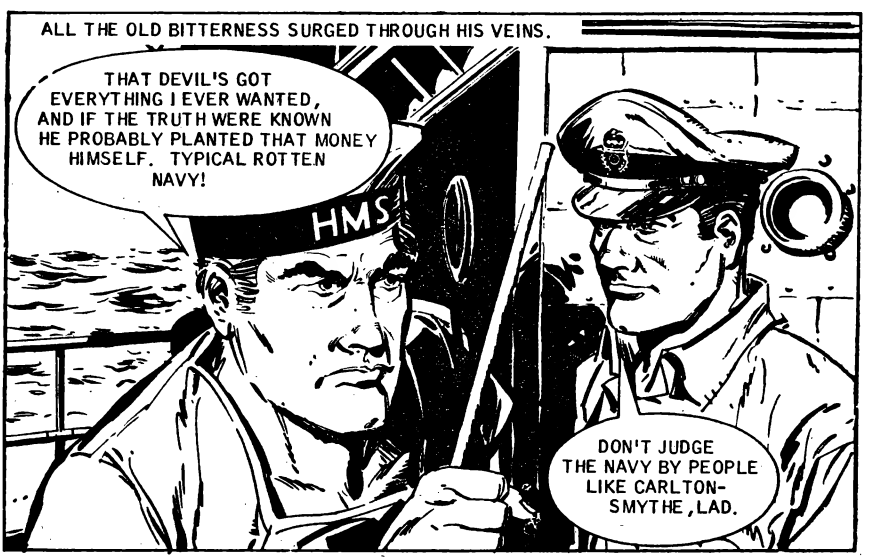
IT DOESN'T MAKE SENSE. A WAR GOING ON AT HOME AND US HERE, THOUSANDS O' MILES FROM THE ACTION.
THAT SUITS ME FINE, CHUM. WHAT DID THE NAVY EVER DO FOR US?
KEEP YOUR NOSE OUTA THIS, BAXTER. WE ALL KNOW YOU'VE NO STOMACH FOR FIGHTING.

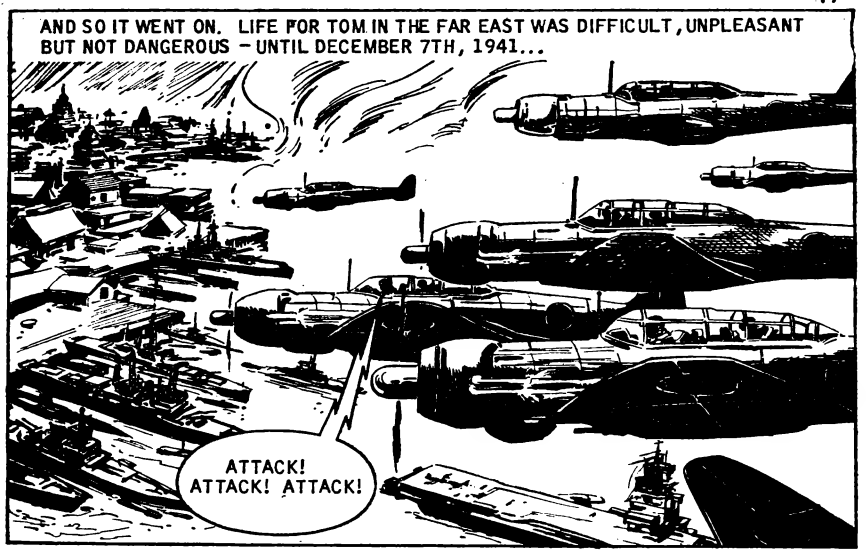
TOM MOROSELY NURSED HIS GRIEVANCE, AND THE MORE HE THOUGHT ABOUT IT, THE BIGGER IT BECAME.
I WAS A FOOL TO JOIN THE NAVY. THE SOONER I GET OUT THE BETTER.
SHAKE A LEG, BAXTER. YOU'RE DUTY WATCH.
HE CONSIDERED DESERTING...AND WHEN CARLTON-SMYTHE, NOW AN OFFICER, JOINED THE SHIP, THE TEMPTATION, LIKE HIS RESENTMENT, GREW.
CARLTON-SMYTHE – HE'LL GIVE ME A ROUGH TIME... MAYBE I SHOULD GET OUT OF IT ALTOGETHER.
BUT THE NEXT FACE HE SAW MADE HIM CHANGE HIS MIND. CHIEF PETTY OFFICER JACK FORD, THE ONE MAN WHO HAD BELIEVED HIM, WAS ALSO JOINING.
YOUNG BAXTER! SO THIS IS WHERE HE FINISHED UP.
CHIEF FORD! IT'S GOOD TO SEE HIM AGAIN!

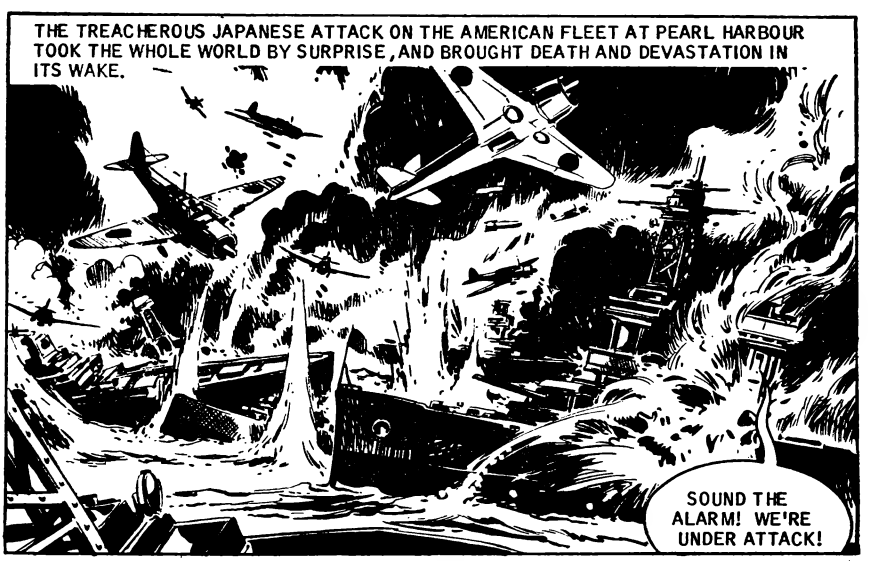
BUT TOM WAS RIGHT ABOUT CARLTON-SMYTHE. HE HAD NOT WON THE COVETED SWORD OF HONOUR AFTER ALL HIS TROUBLE, AND HE STILL FELT BITTER ENOUGH TO GIVE TOM EVERY DIRTY JOB HE COULD FIND.
DO YOU CALL THAT DECK CLEAN? GET DOWN ON YOUR KNEES AND SCRUB IT AGAIN!
BUT YOU HAVEN'T EVEN LOOKED AT IT...
CARLTON-SMYTHE WAS TRYING TO PROVOKE TOM INTO RETALIATION – SO THAT HE COULD THROW THE BOOK AT HIM.
I DON'T HAVE TO LOOK. YOU'LL DO AS I SAY – AND LIKE IT! IT'LL KEEP YOUR THIEVING HANDS BUSY.
MS
FOR TWO PINS I'D...

JACK FORD STEPPED QUICKLY BETWEEN THEM.
YOU'RE WANTED ON THE BRIDGE, SIR. I'LL SEE THAT BAXTER DOES HIS WORK.
YES, DO THAT, CHIEF! YOU KNOW WHAT HE'S LIKE.

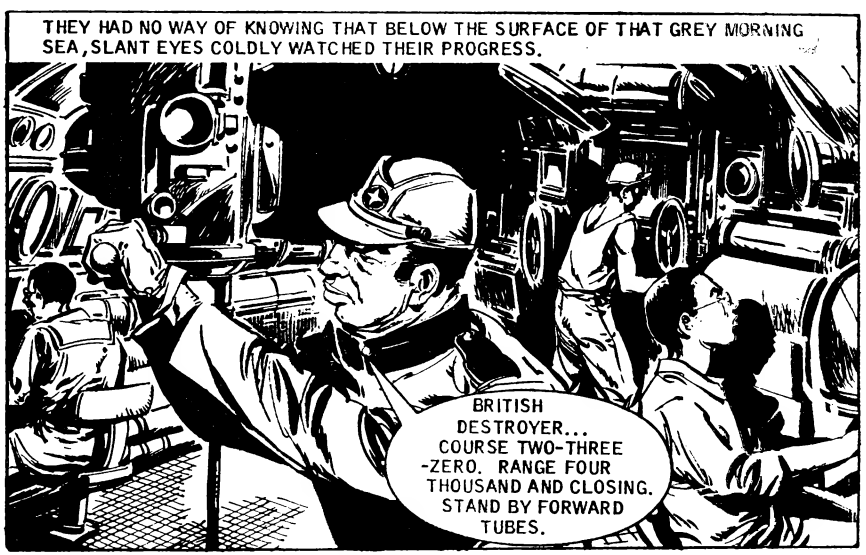
WHEN CARLTON-SMYTHE HAD LEFT, JACK FORD RELEASED HIS GRIP.
YOU YOUNG FOOL! IF YOU TAKE A SWING AT HIM YOU'LL BE DOING JUST WHAT HE WANTS.
MAYBE, BUT IT WILL GIVE ME A LOT OF SATISFACTION.


ALL THE OLD BITTERNESS SURGED THROUGH HIS VEINS.
THAT DEVIL'S GOT EVERYTHING I EVER WANTED, AND IF THE TRUTH WERE KNOWN HE PROBABLY PLANTED THAT MONEY HIMSELF. TYPICAL ROTTEN NAVY!
HMS
DON'T JUDGE THE NAVY BY PEOPLE LIKE CARLTON-SMYTHE, LAD.


AND SO IT WENT ON. LIFE FOR TOM IN THE FAR EAST WAS DIFFICULT, UNPLEASANT BUT NOT DANGEROUS – UNTIL DECEMBER 7TH, 1941...
ATTACK! ATTACK! ATTACK!

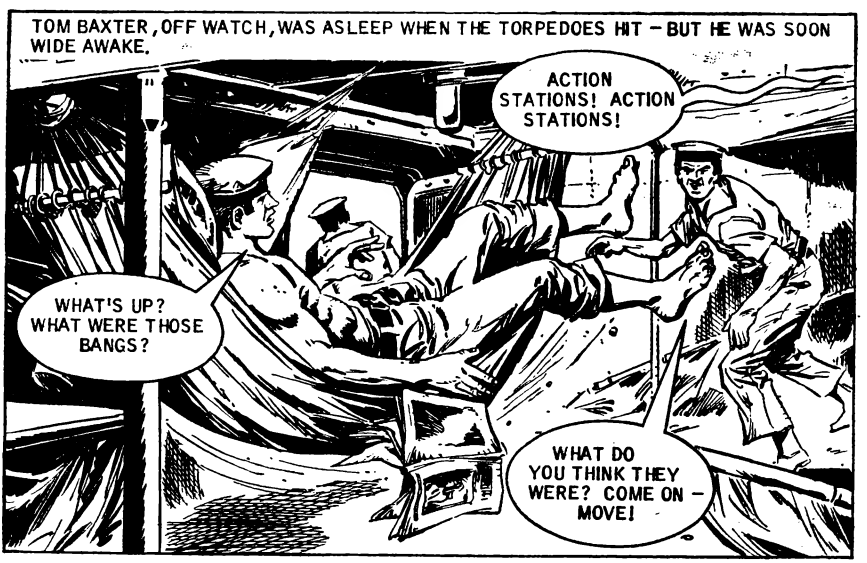

THE TREACHEROUS JAPANESE ATTACK ON THE AMERICAN FLEET AT PEARL HARBOUR TOOK THE WHOLE WORLD BY SURPRISE, AND BROUGHT DEATH AND DEVASTATION IN ITS WAKE.
SOUND THE ALARM! WE'RE UNDER ATTACK!

H. M. S. SCORCHER WAS ON A ROUTINE PATROL WHEN THE NEWS REACHED HER.
THE JAPS HAVE ATTACKED PEARL HARBOUR, SIR!
JAPS. PEARL HARBOUR. THAT MEANS WAR! I'LL TELL THE SKIPPER AT ONCE!


THEY HAD NO WAY OF KNOWING THAT BELOW THE SURFACE OF THAT GREY MORNING SEA, SLANT EYES COLDLY WATCHED THEIR PROGRESS.
BRITISH DESTROYER... COURSE TWO-THREE -ZERO. RANGE FOUR THOUSAND AND CLOSING. STAND BY FORWARD TUBES.

THE BRIDGE LOOK-OUT ON SCORCHER RECOGNISED THE TELL-TALE TRAILS TOO LATE.
TORPEDOES, STARBOARD BOW!

THE WARNING GAVE NO TIME FOR EVASION AND THE JAPANESE AIM WAS DEADLY.
ACTION STATIONS! ACTION STATIONS!


TOM BAXTER, OFF WATCH, WAS ASLEEP WHEN THE TORPEDOES HIT – BUT HE WAS SOON WIDE AWAKE.
ACTION STATIONS! ACTION STATIONS!
WHAT'S UP? WHAT WERE THOSE BANGS?
WHAT DO YOU THINK THEY WERE? COME ON – MOVE!

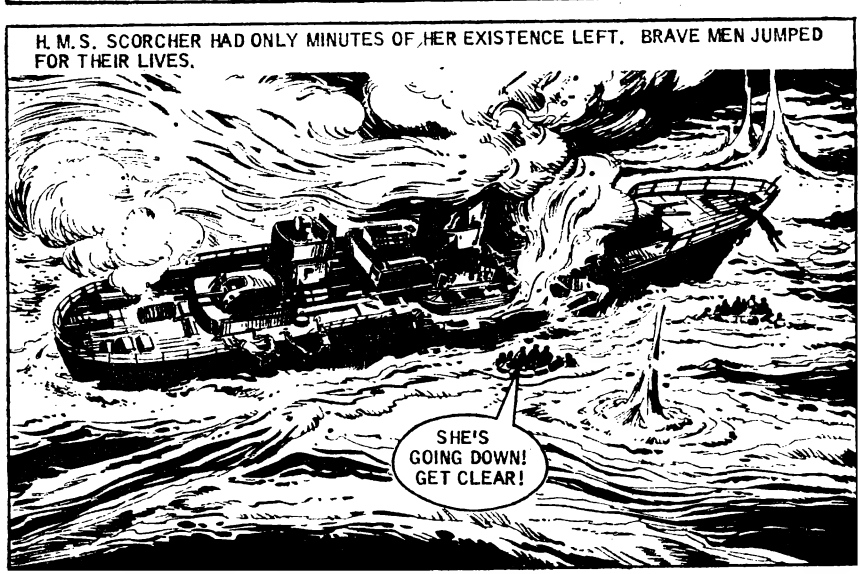
SCORCHER'S CAPTAIN KNEW THAT HIS SHIP WAS DOOMED. THERE WAS ONLY ONE THING LEFT FOR HIM TO DO.

TOM WAS HALF-WAY UP A LADDER WHEN A HAND CAUGHT HIS ANKLE AND JERKED HIM BACK VIOLENTLY. IT WAS CARLTON-SMYTHE.

HE CRASHED HEAVILY AND WATCHED IN A DAZE AS CARLTON-SMYTHE RACED UP THE LADDER WITHOUT GIVING HIM A SECOND GLANCE.
HUH! CARLTON-SMYTHE... LOOKING AFTER NUMBER ONE AS USUAL.
I'VE GOT TO GET OUT.. GOT TO GET OUT!

PANIC-STRICKEN, THE COWARDLY OFFICER REACHED THE TOP OF THE LADDER... JUST IN TIME TO MEET THE FULL FORCE OF ANOTHER BLAST.
AAAGH!

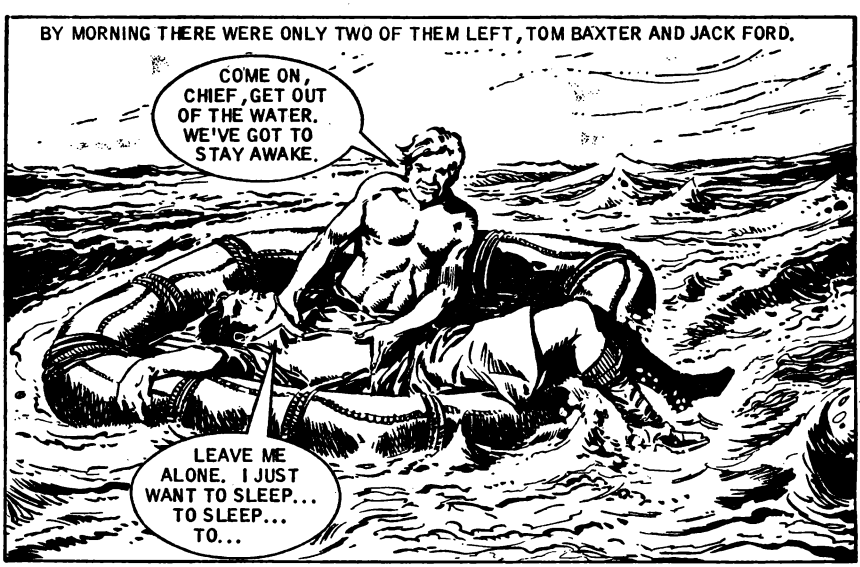
ALTHOUGH TOM HATED THE OFFICER HE KNEW HE COULDN'T LEAVE HIM TO BE TRAPPED IN THE SINKING SHIP. HE PUT AWAY HIS BITTERNESS, HOISTED HIS UNCONSCIOUS ENEMY ON TO HIS SHOULDER AND CLIMBED TOWARDS SAFETY.
SHE'S LISTING BADLY AND THE WATER'S RISING. THERE'S NOT MUCH TIME LEFT.

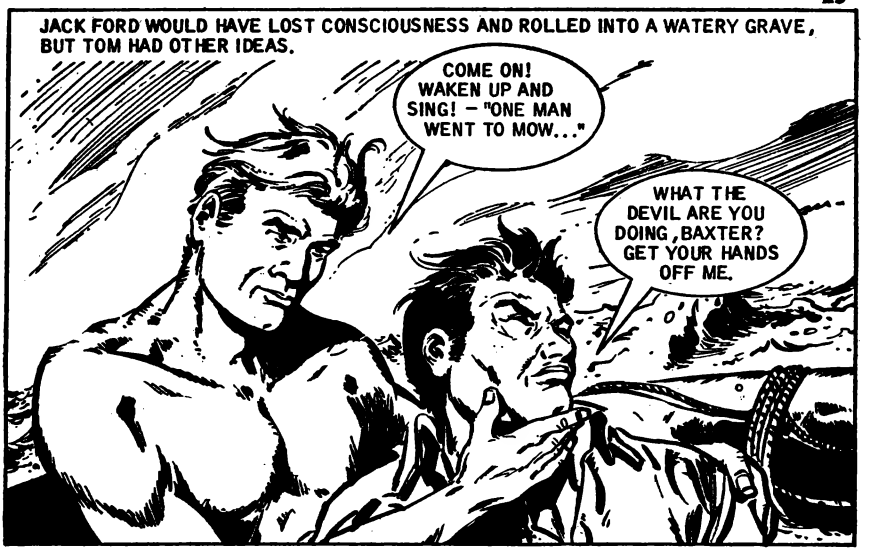

H.M.S. SCORCHER HAD ONLY MINUTES OF HER EXISTENCE LEFT. BRAVE MEN JUMPED FOR THEIR LIVES.
SHE'S GOING DOWN! GET CLEAR!

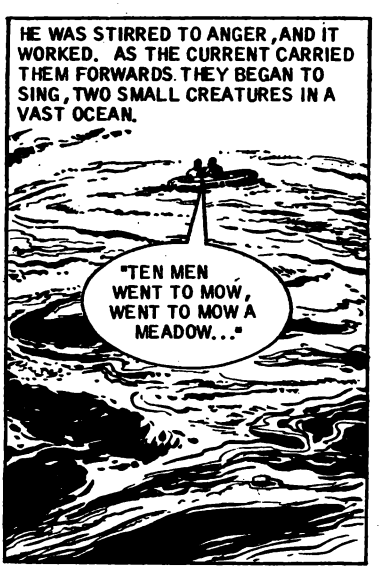
AS HE STAGGERED TOWARDS THE RAIL TOM FELT JACK FORD'S STRONG HANDS RELIEVE HIM OF HIS BURDEN.
WHAT ARE YOU DOING, CHIEF? I'VE GOT TO HELP HIM.
EASY, LAD. HE'S PAST HELP. HE'S DEAD!
GRIMLY THEY LEFT THE DEAD OFFICER BEHIND AND LEAPT FROM THE LISTING WRECK.

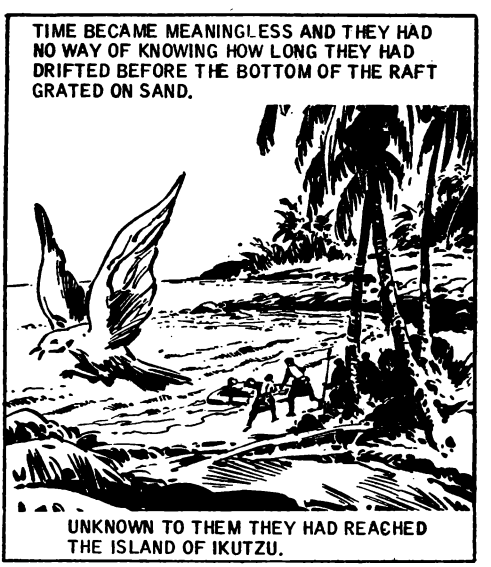
THEY CLUNG WITH OTHERS TO A CARLEY FLOAT, AND WAITED FOR HELP THAT NEVER CAME.
WE'LL TAKE TURNS TO SIT IN THE FLOAT – HALF-HOUR SPELLS. WE'LL SOON BE PICKED UP, SO JUST HANG ON.
WE SEEM TO BE DRIFTING AWAY FROM THE REST.

IT WAS A LONG, HOT DAY THAT TAXED THE STRENGTH AND ENDURANCE OF EVEN THE FITTEST. THE WEAKER MEN HAD NO HOPE OF SURVIVAL. THEIR GRIP SLACKENED AND THEY DRIFTED AWAY ONE BY ONE.
HEY! WATSON! GIMME YOUR HAND, LAD. WATSON!
SAVE YOUR BREATH, CHIEF. HE'S HAD IT.

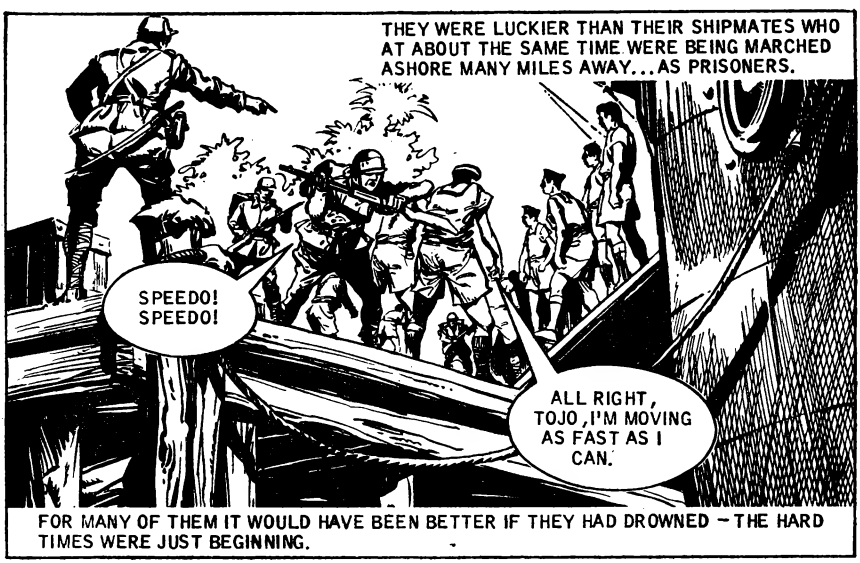

BY MORNING THERE WERE ONLY TWO OF THEM LEFT, TOM BAXTER AND JACK FORD.
COME ON, CHIEF, GET OUT OF THE WATER. WE'VE GOT TO STAY AWAKE.
LEAVE ME ALONE. I JUST WANT TO SLEEP... TO SLEEP... TO...


JACK FORD WOULD HAVE LOST CONSCIOUSNESS AND ROLLED INTO A WATERY GRAVE, BUT TOM HAD OTHER IDEAS.
COME ON! WAKEN UP AND SING! – "ONE MAN WENT TO MOW..."
WHAT THE DEVIL ARE YOU DOING, BAXTER? GET YOUR HANDS OFF ME.


HE WAS STIRRED TO ANGER, AND IT WORKED. AS THE CURRENT CARRIED THEM FORWARDS. THEY BEGAN TO SING, TWO SMALL CREATURES IN A VAST OCEAN.
"TEN MEN WENT TO MOW, WENT TO MOW A MEADOW..."

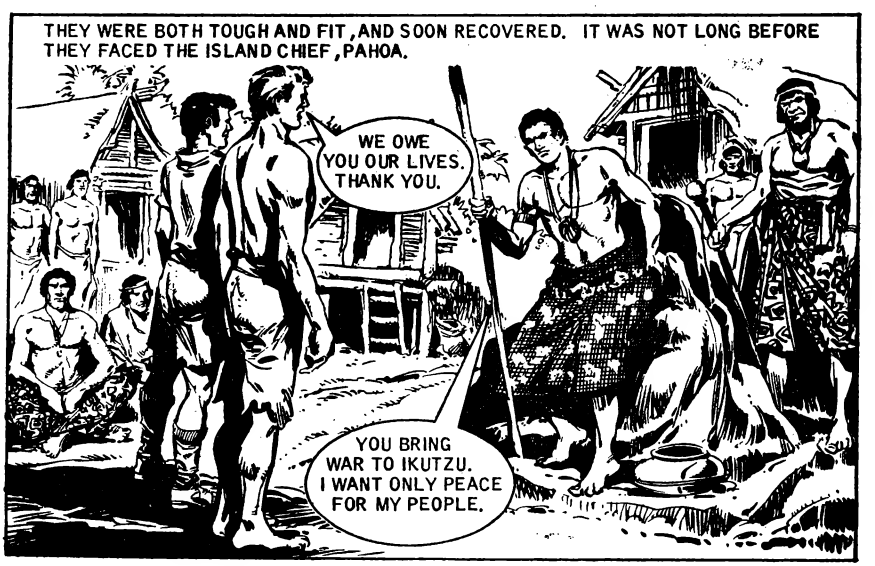

TIME BECAME MEANINGLESS AND THEY HAD NO WAY OF KNOWING HOW LONG THEY HAD DRIFTED BEFORE THE BOTTOM OF THE RAFT GRATED ON SAND.
UNKNOWN TO THEM THEY HAD REACHED THE ISLAND OF IKUTZU.

THEY WERE STILL UNCONSCIOUS WHEN NATIVES FOUND THEM AND CARRIED THEM TO THEIR VILLAGE.


THEY WERE LUCKIER THAN THEIR SHIPMATES WHO AT ABOUT THE SAME TIME WERE BEING MARCHED ASHORE MANY MILES AWAY... AS PRISONERS.
SPEEDO! SPEEDO!
ALL RIGHT, TOJO, I'M MOVING AS FAST AS I CAN.

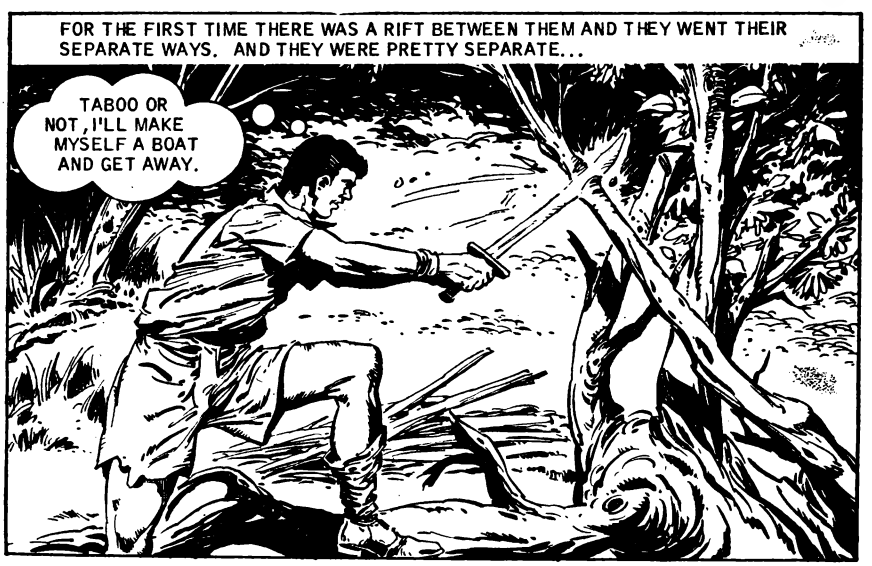
FOR MANY OF THEM IT WOULD HAVE BEEN BETTER IF THEY HAD DROWNED – THE HARD TIMES WERE JUST BEGINNING.

WHEN TOM BAXTER OPENED HIS EYES THE WAR SEEMED FAR AWAY.
WHERE... WHERE AM I?
TELL PAHOA STRANGER AWAKE.


THEY WERE BOTH TOUGH AND FIT, AND SOON RECOVERED. IT WAS NOT LONG BEFORE THEY FACED THE ISLAND CHIEF, PAHOA.
WE OWE YOU OUR LIVES. THANK YOU.
YOU BRING WAR TO IKUTZU. I WANT ONLY PEACE FOR MY PEOPLE.

THE CHIEF MADE IT CLEAR THAT THEY WERE NOT WELCOME. HE FEARED THAT THE JAPANESE WOULD FOLLOW.
SOLDIERS OF NIPPON ALREADY VISIT IKUTZU. IF THEY COME AGAIN AND YOU STILL HERE YOU WILL BE GIVEN TO THEM.
JUST GIVE US A BOAT WHEN WE'RE FIT AGAIN AND WE'LL TAKE OUR CHANCE.
PAHOA HAD ANOTHER UNPLEASANT SURPRISE FOR THEM.
WE ISLAND PEOPLE. NO BOAT ON IKUTZU. BOAT TABOO!
NO BOATS? THAT'S TORN IT.
SUITS ME FINE. I'M OUT OF THE WAR AND OUT OF THE BLASTED NAVY — AND THAT'S THE WAY I LIKE IT.

JACK FORD WAS STEEPED IN NAVAL TRADITION. TO HIM SUCH WORDS WERE TREASON.
YOU YOUNG WHIPPER-SNAPPER! WHAT MAKES YOU THINK YOU WERE EVER GOOD ENOUGH FOR THE NAVY? DON'T BLAME THE NAVY FOR YOUR OWN FAILINGS.
BLAST THE NAVY AND ALL IT STANDS FOR — AND THAT INCLUDES YOU!


FOR THE FIRST TIME THERE WAS A RIFT BETWEEN THEM AND THEY WENT THEIR SEPARATE WAYS. AND THEY WERE PRETTY SEPARATE...
TABOO OR NOT, I'LL MAKE MYSELF A BOAT AND GET AWAY.

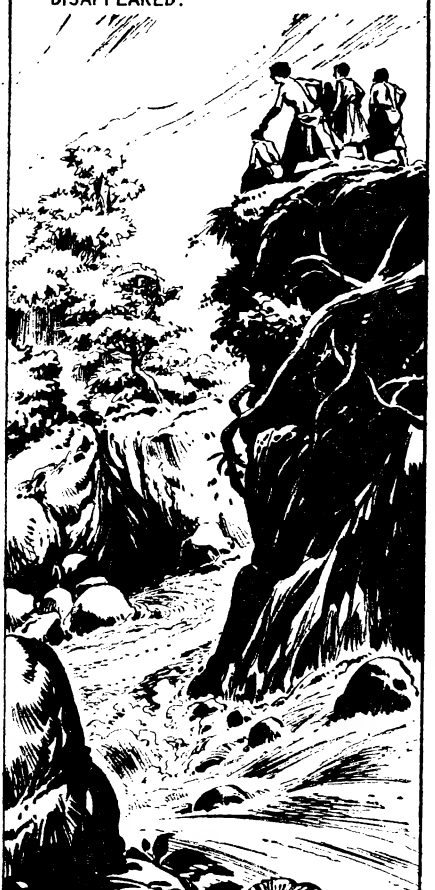
WHILE TOM WAS MORE INTERESTED IN STAYING PUT AND LOUNGED AROUND, SWIMMING OR RESTING, TAKING MORE AND MORE INTEREST IN THE NATIVE VILLAGERS WHO DIVED DEEPLY OFF THE REEFS TO COLLECT CORAL. OVER THE YEARS THEY HAD MASTERED THE ABILITY TO STAY DOWN FOR LONG PERIODS WITHOUT USING ANY DIVING EQUIPMENT.

HIS CHANCE TO WIN THE CHIEF'S APPROVAL CAME IN A STRANGE FASHION. ONE DAY PAHOA WAS CROSSING A DEEP GORGE WHEN THE ROPE BRIDGE SNAPPED.

AS PAHOA HURTLED INTO THE SEETHING TORRENT BELOW, HIS HEAD STRUCK A ROCK AND HIS WORLD WENT BLACK.

THE SWIFT CURRENT GRABBED AT HIM WITH GREEDY FINGERS AND SWEPT HIM TOWARDS DEATH.

HIGH ABOVE, THE NATIVES WATCHED WITHOUT MOVING AS THEIR CHIEF WAS CARRIED TOWARDS A DARK CREVICE WHERE THE RIVER DISAPPEARED.



TO HIS SUPERSTITIOUS PEOPLE THE CREVICE WAS "THE MOUTH OF THE DEVIL". THOSE WHO HAD BEEN SWALLOWED BY IT HAD NEVER BEEN SEEN AGAIN...

BUT TOM BAXTER KNEW NOTHING OF THE SUPERSTITION. A MAN NEEDED HELP – IT WAS AS SIMPLE AS THAT. HE FLUNG HIMSELF INTO THE ANGRY WATER WITHOUT HESITATION.
I'VE GOT TO PULL HIM CLEAR BEFORE WE REACH THOSE CLIFFS.
TOM WAS A STRONG SWIMMER AND HE FOUGHT HARD AGAINST THE FIERCE CURRENT – BUT TO NO AVAIL.
IT'S NO GOOD! I'M NOT GOING TO MAKE IT...
HE MANAGED TO FILL HIS LUNGS BEFORE THEY WERE BOTH PLUNGED INTO INKY BLACKNESS..
I CAN'T HOLD OUT MUCH LONGER.

WITH HIS LUNGS BURSTING HE SUDDENLY SURFACED IN A GIANT CAVERN, THE WALLS OF WHICH ROSE CLEAR OF THE WATER – BUT HIS TROUBLES WERE NOT YET OVER. ANOTHER BLACK, EVIL CAVE YAWNED AHEAD OF THEM.

HE COULD HAVE SAVED HIMSELF MORE EASILY BY RELEASING THE CHIEF, BUT HE HUNG ON GRIMLY AND HIS OUTSTRETCHED FINGERS BRUSHED AN OUTCROP OF ROCK.

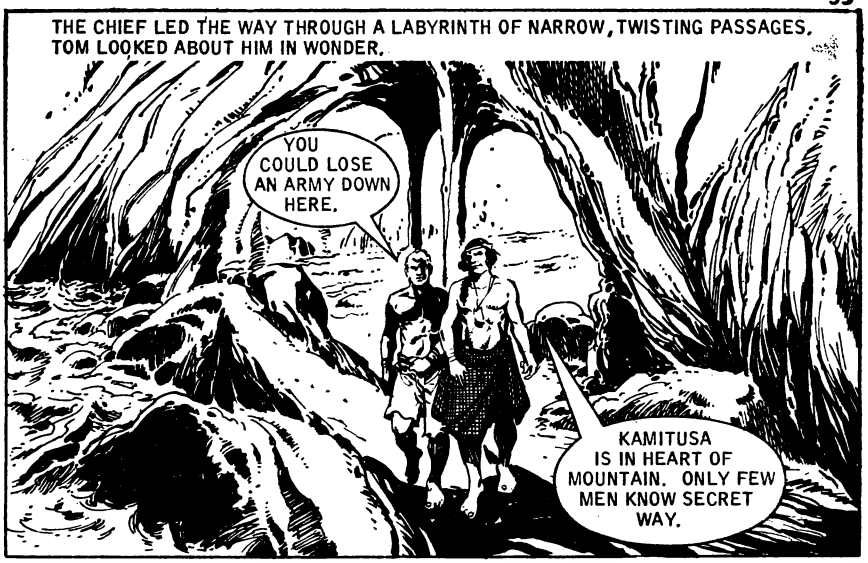
GRITTING HIS TEETH AND SUMMONING UP HIS REMAINING STRENGTH, HE EDGED HIMSELF AND HIS BURDEN INCH BY INCH TO SAFETY IN WHAT APPEARED TO BE A CHAIN OF INTER-CONNECTING CAVERNS FED FROM THE SEA AND THE ISLAND RIVERS.

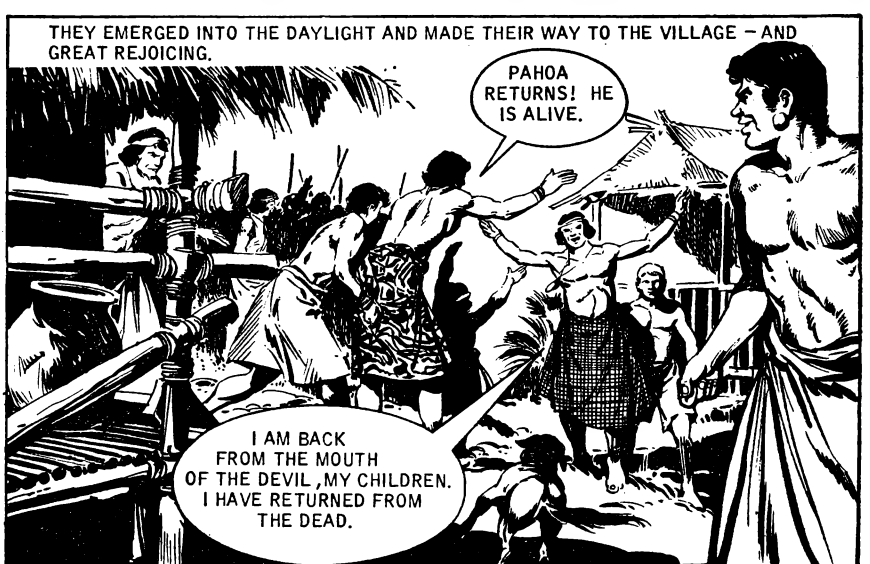
I MADE IT!

GRADUALLY THEY RECOVERED. THE CAVERN WALLS CAST AN EERIE, LUMINOUS GLOW AND PAHOA, RECOGNISING THE PLACE, REALISED WHAT HAD HAPPENED.

WHERE ARE WE?

THIS PLACE IS KAMITUSA, ANCIENT BURIAL PLACE OF CHIEFS. YOU SAVE MY LIFE, ENGLISHMAN.


THE CHIEF LED THE WAY THROUGH A LABYRINTH OF NARROW, TWISTING PASSAGES. TOM LOOKED ABOUT HIM IN WONDER.
YOU COULD LOSE AN ARMY DOWN HERE.
KAMITUSA IS IN HEART OF MOUNTAIN. ONLY FEW MEN KNOW SECRET WAY.


THEY EMERGED INTO THE DAYLIGHT AND MADE THEIR WAY TO THE VILLAGE – AND GREAT REJOICING.
PAHOA RETURNS! HE IS ALIVE.
I AM BACK FROM THE MOUTH OF THE DEVIL, MY CHILDREN. I HAVE RETURNED FROM THE DEAD.

HE PUSHED TOM ON TO HIS THRONE AND TURNED TO HIS PEOPLE.

I OWE THIS MAN MY LIFE. HE IS NOW MY BROTHER.

AND AMONG THE PEOPLE OF IKUTZU THERE COULD BE NO GREATER HONOUR.

JACK FORD STOOD ON THE EDGE OF THE THRONG. HE HAD NOT YET FORGIVEN TOM ENTIRELY, BUT HE WAS PLEASED TO SEE HIM ALIVE.

THAT LAD'S ALL MIXED UP ABOUT THE NAVY, BUT HE'S GOT A LOT OF GOOD IN HIM STILL.

FROM THAT DAY PAHOA TOOK TOM UNDER HIS WING, AND WHILE JACK CONTINUED TO BUILD HIS BOAT IN SECRET, TOM JOINED THE CORAL DIVERS.

THIS IS THE LIFE! I'M GLAD I'M OUT OF THE NAVY AND OUT OF THE WAR.

A STRONG SWIMMER BEFORE ALL THIS, TOM SOON LEARNED TO STAY SUBMERGED AS LONG AS THE CORAL DIVERS.

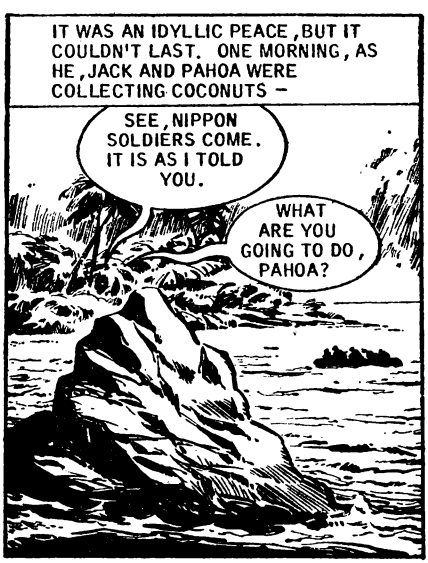
SUDDENLY THE CHIEF SIGNALLED TOM TO FOLLOW HIM TOWARDS A CLEFT IN THE ROOF THAT SUDDENLY WIDENED INTO A LARGE OPENING.

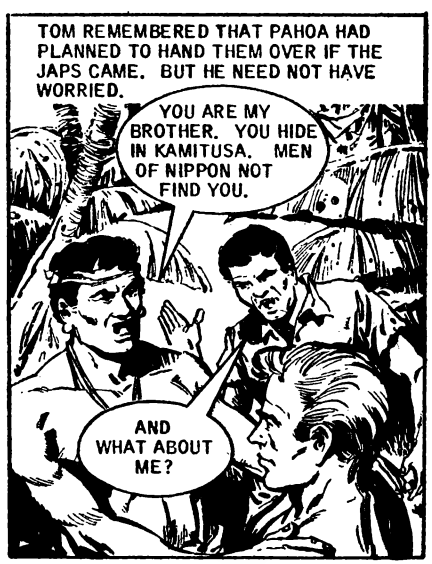
HE WAS IN FOR A SURPRISE. THEY SURFACED SUDDENLY AND HE FOUND HIMSELF IN A CAVE.

HEY! FRESH AIR... BELOW SEA LEVEL. WHERE ARE WE?
THERE ARE MANY CAVES LIKE THIS, MY FRIEND. THEY ARE PART OF KAMITUSA. THAT IS WHY WE CAN BREATHE.

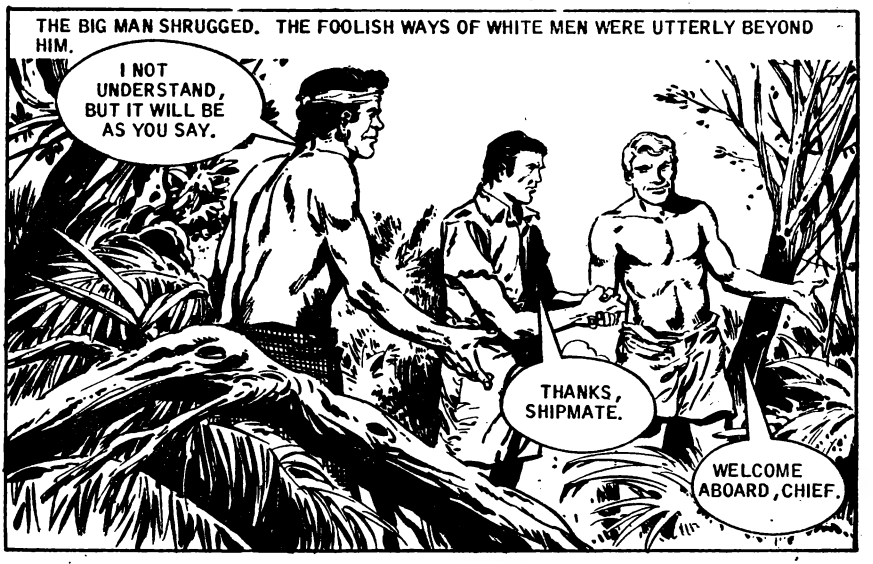
PROUDLY THE CHIEF LED THEM BACK TO THE VERY CAVERN WHERE TOM HAD SAVED HIS LIFE, AND IT BECAME CLEAR THE WHOLE ISLAND WAS HONEY-COMBED BY THESE SUBTERRANEAN CAVES.

TOM WAS ENJOYING HIS NEW LIFE AND SPENT MANY HOURS EXPLORING THE SECRET CAVES. THE WAR WAS FAR AWAY.
THIS IS ANOTHER WORLD. A WHOLE NAVY COULD BE ANCHORED IN THE COVE AND THEY WOULD NEVER FIND ME DOWN HERE.

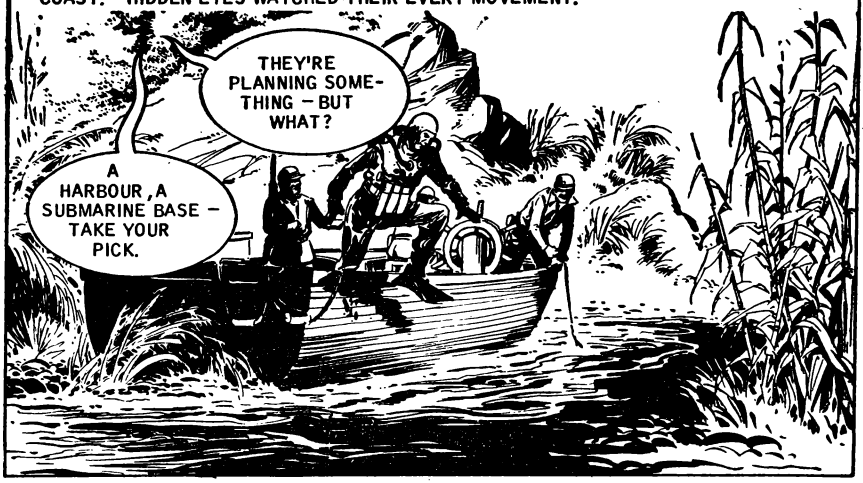

IT WAS AN IDYLLIC PEACE, BUT IT COULDN'T LAST. ONE MORNING, AS HE, JACK AND PAHOA WERE COLLECTING COCONUTS –
SEE, NIPPON SOLDIERS COME. IT IS AS I TOLD YOU.
WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO, PAHOA?


TOM REMEMBERED THAT PAHOA HAD PLANNED TO HAND THEM OVER IF THE JAPS CAME. BUT HE NEED NOT HAVE WORRIED.
YOU ARE MY BROTHER. YOU HIDE IN KAMITUSA. MEN OF NIPPON NOT FIND YOU.
AND WHAT ABOUT ME?

PAHOA SWUNG ROUND ON JACK WITH ANGER IN HIS EYES.
YOU QUARREL WITH MY BROTHER, AND YOU BUILD BOAT – TABOO! YOU DESERVE TO DIE.
WELL, OF ALL THE NERVE...
HOLD ON, PAHOA. THIS MAN IS MY FRIEND... YOU MUST HELP HIM TOO.


THE BIG MAN SHRUGGED. THE FOOLISH WAYS OF WHITE MEN WERE UTTERLY BEYOND HIM.
I NOT UNDERSTAND, BUT IT WILL BE AS YOU SAY.
THANKS, SHIPMATE.
WELCOME ABOARD, CHIEF.

THE JAPS WHO CAME ASHORE WERE MOSTLY ENGINEERS OR SURVEYORS. THEY MADE NO ATTEMPT TO EXPLORE THE WHOLE ISLAND, BUT KEPT TO ONE STRETCH OF THE COAST. HIDDEN EYES WATCHED THEIR EVERY MOVEMENT.



AFTER TWO DAYS OF SURVEYING AND MEASURING THE JAPS LEFT, BUT WITHIN A WEEK A STRONGER FORCE ARRIVED. IKUTZU WAS BEING OCCUPIED.

TOM'S GUESS HAD BEEN RIGHT. THE JAPS WERE ESTABLISHING A BASE ON IKUTZU, PREPARING TO STRETCH THEIR TENTACLES TO EVERY QUARTER OF THAT VAST OCEAN.

PAHOA LED TOM AND JACK THROUGH THE LABYRINTH OF PASSAGEWAYS TO THE HEART OF KAMITUSA. WITH THEM WENT SEVERAL PORTERS WITH SUPPLIES.

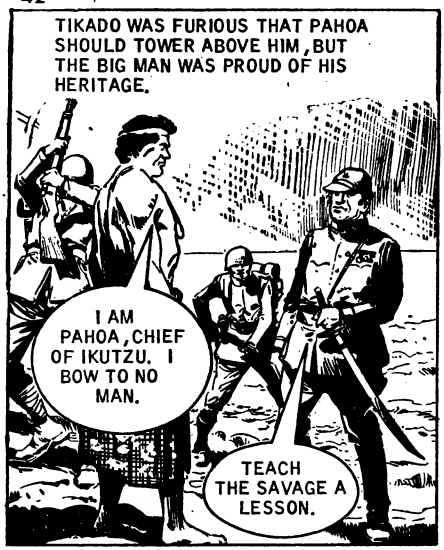
HERE IN KAMITUSA YOU WILL BE SAFE. WE BRING YOU FOOD.

THANKS, PAHOA. BE CAREFUL OF THOSE JAPS. THEY ARE DEVILS.

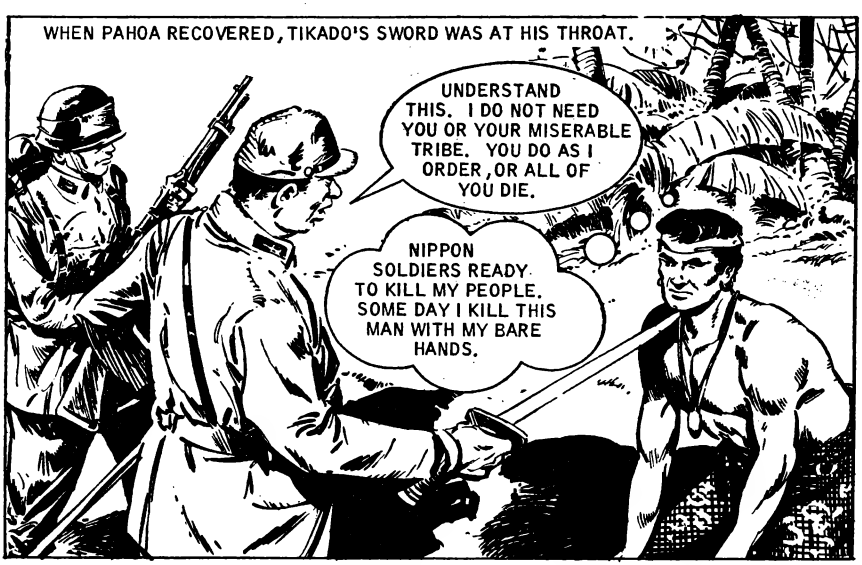
IN DUE COURSE, PAHOA PAID HIS RESPECTS AS ISLAND CHIEF TO THE JAPANESE COMMANDER, COLONEL TIKADO.

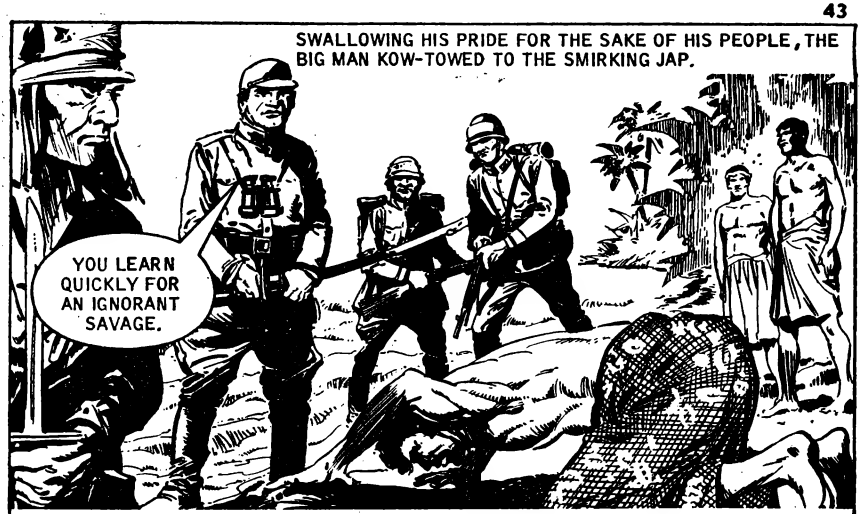
I, PAHOA, LEADER OF IKUTZU PEOPLE, SALUTE YOU.

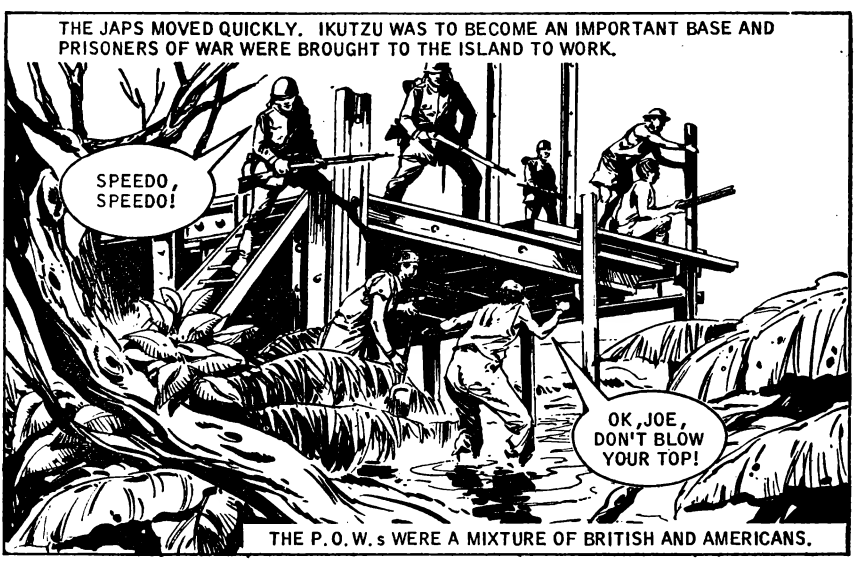
THE WAY TO PAY HOMAGE TO IMPERIAL JAPANESE ARMY IS ON YOUR KNEES, DOG. DOWN!

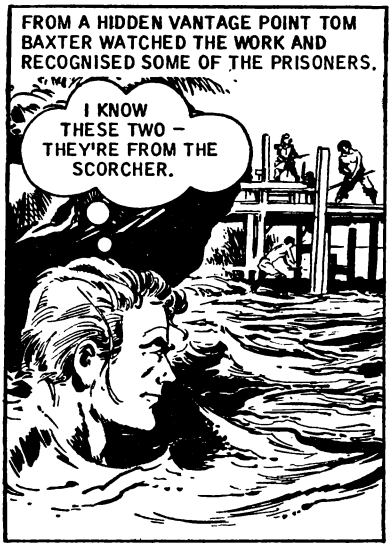

TIKADO WAS FURIOUS THAT PAHOA SHOULD TOWER ABOVE HIM, BUT THE BIG MAN WAS PROUD OF HIS HERITAGE.
I AM PAHOA, CHIEF OF IKUTZU. I BOW TO NO MAN.
TEACH THE SAVAGE A LESSON.

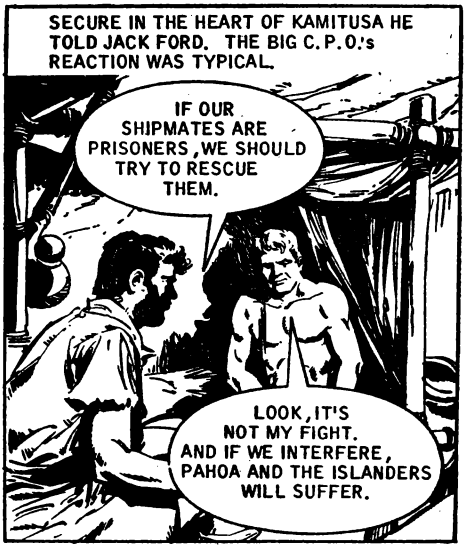
THE RIFLE BUTT CRASHED ON THE CHIEF'S HEAD AND SENT HIM SPRAWLING. PAHOA'S FOLLOWERS MURMURED ANGRILY.
IF THEY MOVE, SHOOT TO KILL.
YES, EXCELLENCY.

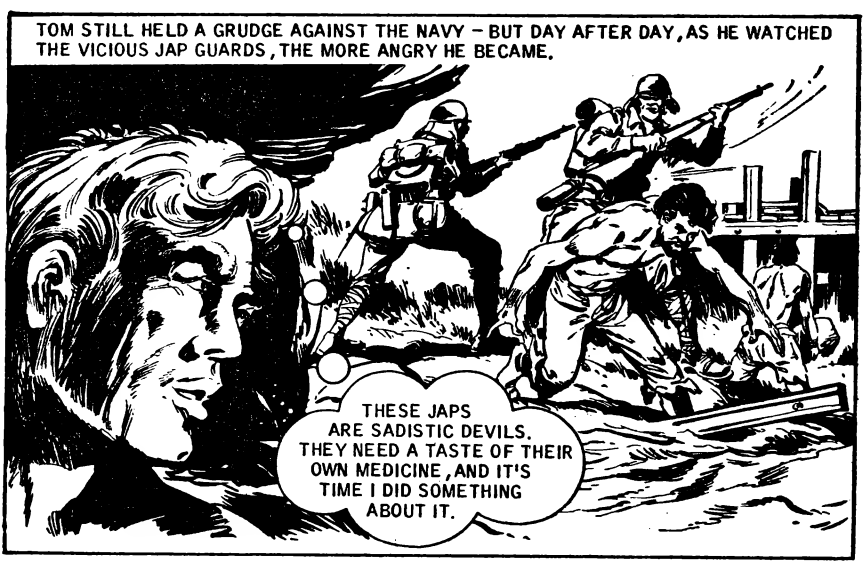

WHEN PAHOA RECOVERED, TIKADO'S SWORD WAS AT HIS THROAT.
UNDERSTAND THIS. I DO NOT NEED YOU OR YOUR MISERABLE TRIBE. YOU DO AS I ORDER, OR ALL OF YOU DIE.
NIPPON SOLDIERS READY TO KILL MY PEOPLE. SOME DAY I KILL THIS MAN WITH MY BARE HANDS.


SWALLOWING HIS PRIDE FOR THE SAKE OF HIS PEOPLE, THE BIG MAN KOW-TOWED TO THE SMIRKING JAP.
YOU LEARN QUICKLY FOR AN IGNORANT SAVAGE.
BUT THERE WAS HATRED IN PAHOA'S HEART AS HE WAS FORCED TO HUMBLE HIMSELF BEFORE THE INVADERS.


THE JAPS MOVED QUICKLY. IKUTZU WAS TO BECOME AN IMPORTANT BASE AND PRISONERS OF WAR WERE BROUGHT TO THE ISLAND TO WORK.
SPEEDO, SPEEDO!
OK, JOE, DON'T BLOW YOUR TOP!
THE P.O.W.s WERE A MIXTURE OF BRITISH AND AMERICANS.


FROM A HIDDEN VANTAGE POINT TOM BAXTER WATCHED THE WORK AND RECOGNISED SOME OF THE PRISONERS.
I KNOW THESE TWO – THEY'RE FROM THE SCORCHER.


SECURE IN THE HEART OF KAMITUSA HE TOLD JACK FORD. THE BIG C.P.O.'s REACTION WAS TYPICAL.
IF OUR SHIPMATES ARE PRISONERS, WE SHOULD TRY TO RESCUE THEM.
LOOK, IT'S NOT MY FIGHT. AND IF WE INTERFERE, PAHOA AND THE ISLANDERS WILL SUFFER.


TOM STILL HELD A GRUDGE AGAINST THE NAVY – BUT DAY AFTER DAY, AS HE WATCHED THE VICIOUS JAP GUARDS, THE MORE ANGRY HE BECAME.
THESE JAPS ARE SADISTIC DEVILS. THEY NEED A TASTE OF THEIR OWN MEDICINE, AND IT'S TIME I DID SOMETHING ABOUT IT.

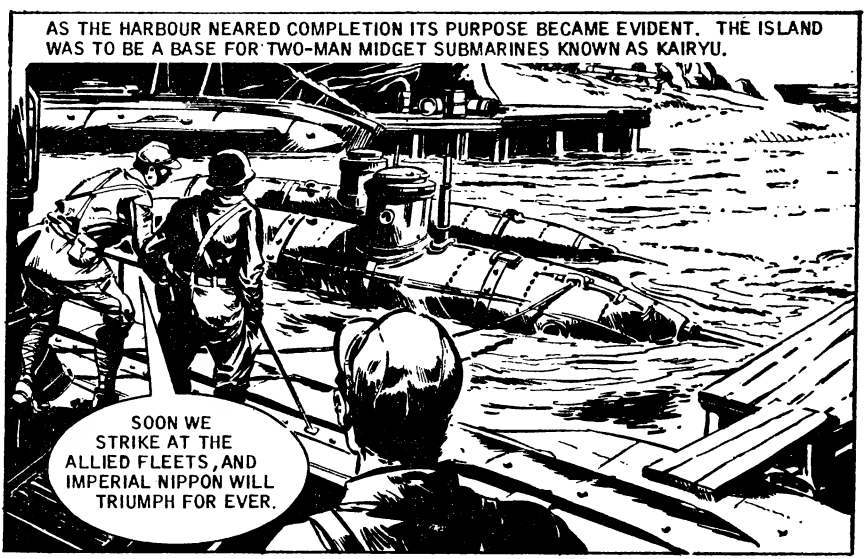
GRADUALLY HIS OLD SPIRIT OF PATRIOTISM WAS RETURNING. HE PASSED ON WHAT HE'D SEEN TO JACK FORD, AND THUS CAME INTO BEING ONE OF THE STRANGEST COMMANDO FORCES OF WORLD WAR II.

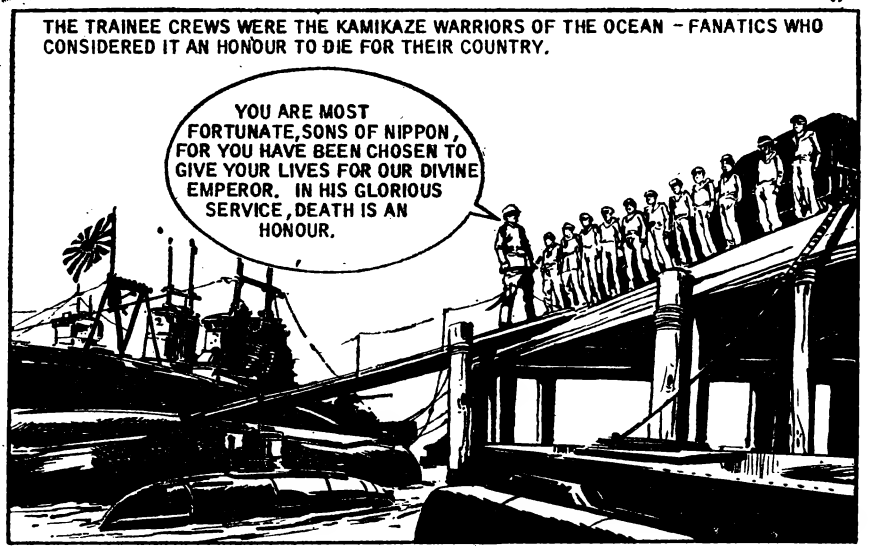
THESE OUR BEST MEN. YOUR FRIEND MAKE GOOD SOLDIERS OUT OF THEM TO FIGHT LITTLE MEN OF NIPPON?
BY THE TIME JACK'S FINISHED WITH 'EM THEY'LL BE UNBEATABLE.

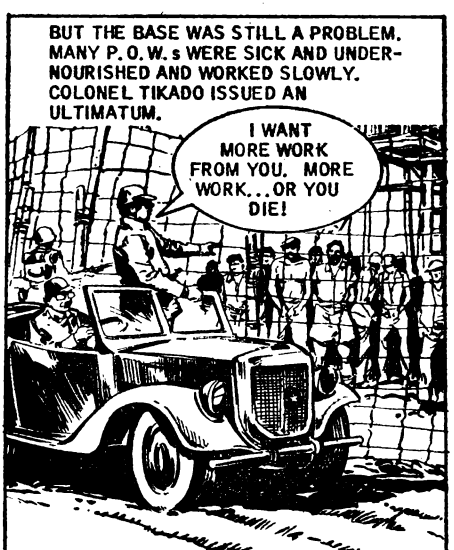
SOON THE NATIVE FIGHTERS WENT INTO ACTION. ONE BY ONE, JAPANESE FROGMEN VANISHED.

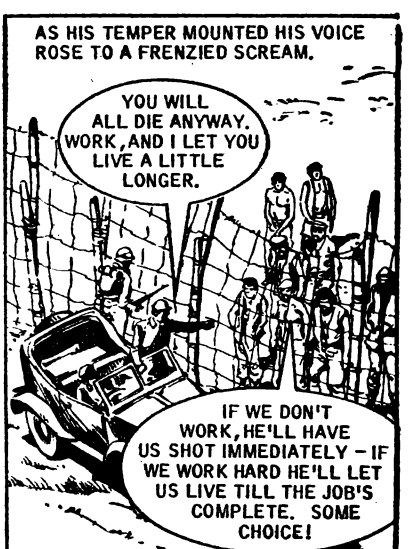
LIKE THE ANCIENT CHIEFS OF IKUTZU THEY FOUND THEIR LAST RESTING PLACE IN KAMITUSA... BUT WITHOUT THE ELABORATE RITUALS OF THOSE FAR-OFF DAYS. THEIR DISAPPEARANCES WERE SWIFT, SECRET – AND HORRIBLY FINAL.

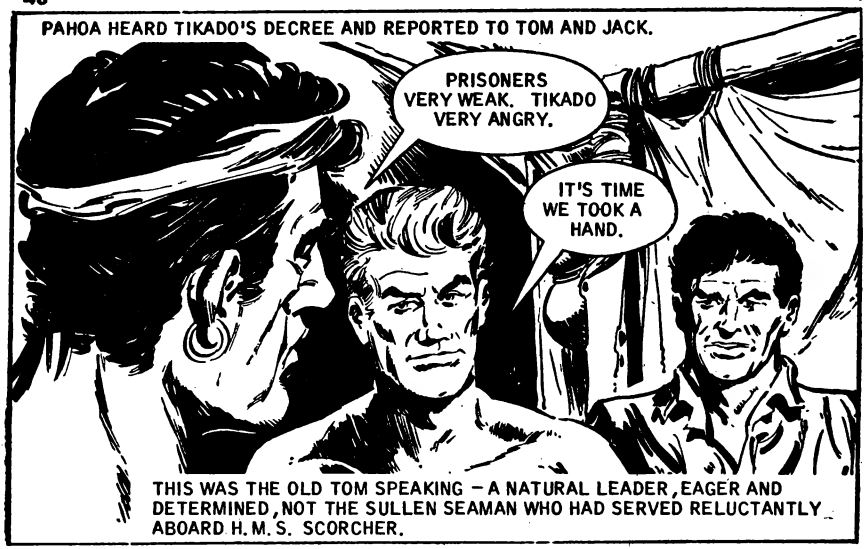
THE JAPS WERE PUZZLED, BUT TOM AND HIS COMMANDO DIVERS LEFT NO CLUES. RUMOUR WAS RIFE.
ANOTHER OF OUR FROGMEN IS MISSING, EXCELLENCY.
THERE IS TALK OF SHARKS AND OF STRANGE UNDER-WATER CURRENTS. THESE MEN HAVE DISAPPEARED WITHOUT TRACE.
MEN ARE EXPENDABLE. THE WORK MUST BE COM-PLETED QUICKLY AT ANY COST.


AS THE HARBOUR NEARED COMPLETION ITS PURPOSE BECAME EVIDENT. THE ISLAND WAS TO BE A BASE FOR TWO-MAN MIDGET SUBMARINES KNOWN AS KAIRYU.
SOON WE STRIKE AT THE ALLIED FLEETS, AND IMPERIAL NIPPON WILL TRIUMPH FOR EVER.

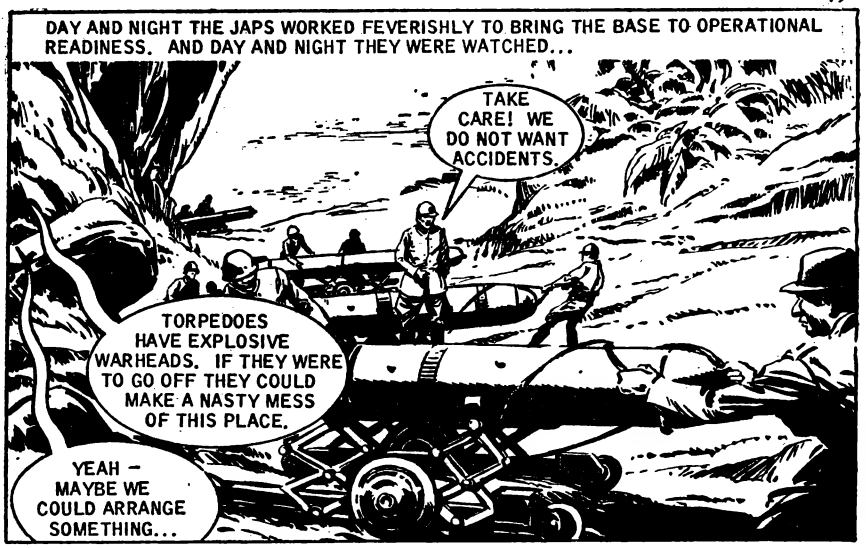

THE TRAINEE CREWS WERE THE KAMIKAZE WARRIORS OF THE OCEAN – FANATICS WHO CONSIDERED IT AN HONOUR TO DIE FOR THEIR COUNTRY.
YOU ARE MOST FORTUNATE, SONS OF NIPPON, FOR YOU HAVE BEEN CHOSEN TO GIVE YOUR LIVES FOR OUR DIVINE EMPEROR. IN HIS GLORIOUS SERVICE, DEATH IS AN HONOUR.


BUT THE BASE WAS STILL A PROBLEM. MANY P.O.W.s WERE SICK AND UNDER-NOURISHED AND WORKED SLOWLY. COLONEL TIKADO ISSUED AN ULTIMATUM.
I WANT MORE WORK FROM YOU. MORE WORK... OR YOU DIE!


AS HIS TEMPER MOUNTED HIS VOICE ROSE TO A FRENZIED SCREAM.
YOU WILL ALL DIE ANYWAY. WORK, AND I LET YOU LIVE A LITTLE LONGER.
IF WE DON'T WORK, HE'LL HAVE US SHOT IMMEDIATELY – IF WE WORK HARD HE'LL LET US LIVE TILL THE JOB'S COMPLETE. SOME CHOICE!


PAHOA HEARD TIKADO'S DECREE AND REPORTED TO TOM AND JACK.
PRISONERS VERY WEAK. TIKADO VERY ANGRY.
IT'S TIME WE TOOK A HAND.
THIS WAS THE OLD TOM SPEAKING – A NATURAL LEADER, EAGER AND DETERMINED, NOT THE SULLEN SEAMAN WHO HAD SERVED RELUCTANTLY ABOARD H.M.S. SCORCHER.

BUT THE ARRIVAL OF A JAP DESTROYER BRINGING TORPEDOES FOR THE KAIRYU MADE THEM CHANGE THEIR PLANS – ACTION COULD NOT BE PUT OFF MUCH LONGER.
NEW DEVELOPMENTS, PAHOA. IT LOOKS AS IF THE JAPS ARE GETTING READY TO MAKE THEIR MOVE.


DAY AND NIGHT THE JAPS WORKED FEVERISHLY TO BRING THE BASE TO OPERATIONAL READINESS. AND DAY AND NIGHT THEY WERE WATCHED...
TAKE CARE! WE DO NOT WANT ACCIDENTS.
TORPEDOES HAVE EXPLOSIVE WARHEADS. IF THEY WERE TO GO OFF THEY COULD MAKE A NASTY MESS OF THIS PLACE.
YEAH – MAYBE WE COULD ARRANGE SOMETHING...

THEN CAME THE DAY OF THE DRAGON, A DAY OF CELEBRATION IN TIKADO'S REGIMENT. TIKADO, IN FESTIVE MOOD, SENT A MESSENGER TO THE COMMANDER OF THE DESTROYER.
HIS EXCELLENCY INVITES YOU AND YOUR CREW TO JOIN IN CELEBRATING THE DAY OF THE DRAGON.
CONVEY MY THANKS TO YOUR ESTEEMED COLONEL. WE SHALL BE HONOURED TO ACCEPT.

WHEN WORK FOR THE DAY WAS COMPLETED, PART OF A WATCH WAS LEFT ABOARD THE DESTROYER, WHILE THE REST OF THE MEN MADE THEIR WAY HAPPILY ASHORE TO THE CELEBRATIONS.

AND THAT WAS WHEN TOM HAD HIS CRAZY IDEA. THEY HAD NOTHING TO LOSE...IT WAS WORTH TRYING.

THE RAIDERS SWAM STEADILY THROUGH THE GROWING DARKNESS TOWARDS THE JAPANESE WARSHIP.

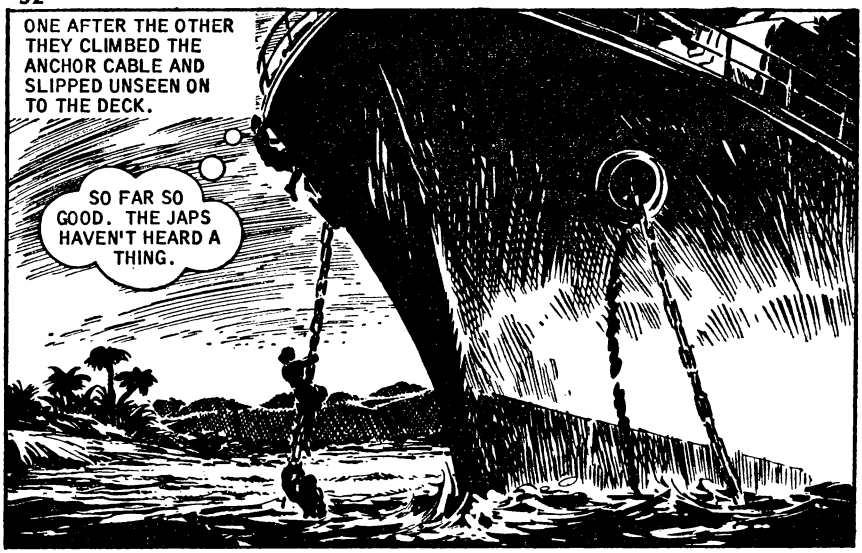
THE JAPS WON'T BE EXPECTING ANY TROUBLE, BUT TO BE ON THE SAFE SIDE WE'LL SWIM THE LAST STRETCH UNDERWATER.

AND WHEN HE DISAPPEARED BENEATH THE SURFACE, HIS SQUAD FOLLOWED.

THEY WERE ALL EXPERT DIVERS AND COULD STAY SUBMERGED FOR LONG PERIODS.

THEY SOON REACHED THEIR TARGET, THOUGH THE LOOK-OUTS ON THE DESTROYER SAW AND HEARD NOTHING.

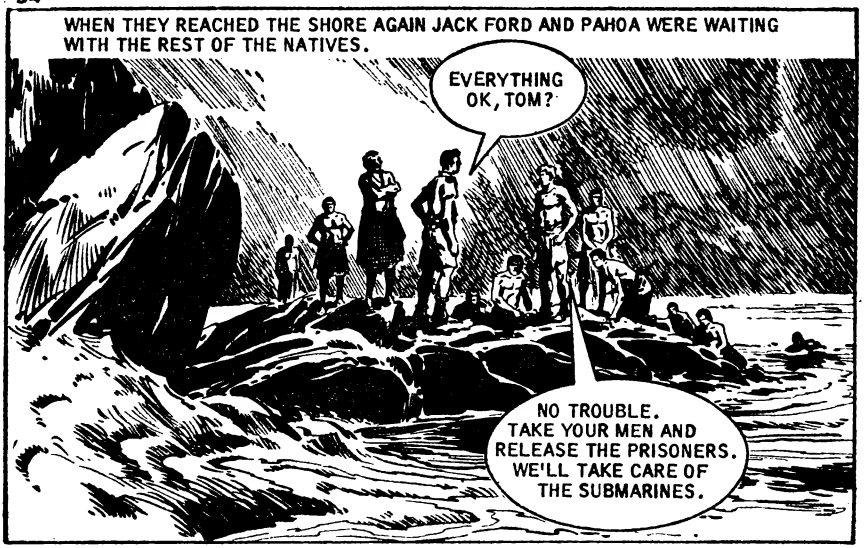
FOLLOW ME – AND NO NOISE!

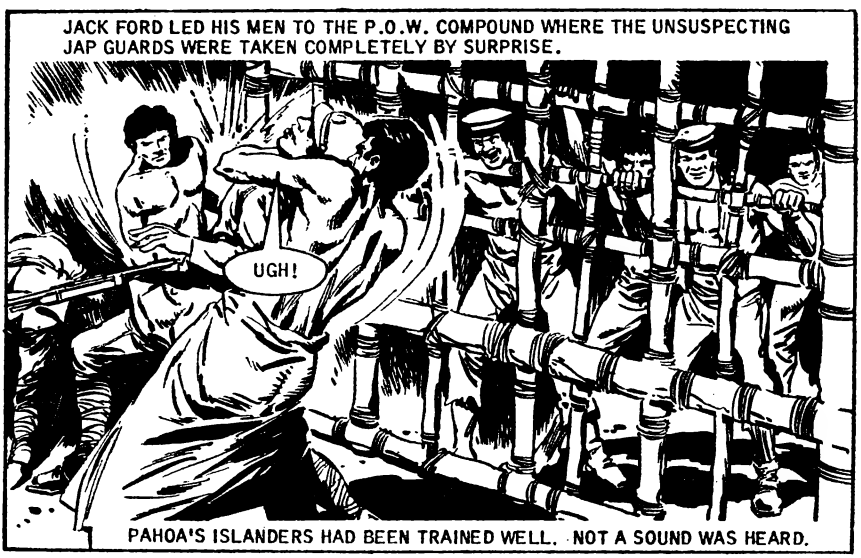

ONE AFTER THE OTHER THEY CLIMBED THE ANCHOR CABLE AND SLIPPED UNSEEN ON TO THE DECK.
SO FAR SO GOOD. THE JAPS HAVEN'T HEARD A THING.

AS SOON AS THE WHOLE SQUAD WAS ON BOARD THEY WENT INTO ACTION.
UGH!
JACK FORD HAD TRAINED THEM WELL – THEY WERE SILENT AND DEADLY.

THEY WORKED THEIR WAY THROUGH THE SHIP AND WITHIN MINUTES IT WAS ALL OVER.
ALL NIPPON SAILORS DEAD. SHIP IS OURS.
GOOD. NOW I'VE ONE THING TO DO BEFORE WE GO BACK TO THE ISLAND.

BREAKING INTO THE MAGAZINE, HE FIXED UP A DETONATOR AND GAVE INSTRUCTIONS TO TWO OF HIS NATIVES.
BE CAREFUL WITH THIS. IT IS CONNECTED TO EXPLOSIVES. IF JAPS RETURN TO SHIP YOU PRESS THIS SWITCH AND SWIM FOR YOUR LIVES.
I UNDERSTAND, MISTER TOM.
IF TOM'S PLAN SHOULD FAIL HE WOULD HAVE THE SATISFACTION OF KNOWING THAT THE DESTROYER WOULD BE BLOWN SKY-HIGH.


WHEN THEY REACHED THE SHORE AGAIN JACK FORD AND PAHOA WERE WAITING WITH THE REST OF THE NATIVES.
EVERYTHING OK, TOM?
NO TROUBLE. TAKE YOUR MEN AND RELEASE THE PRISONERS. WE'LL TAKE CARE OF THE SUBMARINES.


JACK FORD LED HIS MEN TO THE P.O.W. COMPOUND WHERE THE UNSUSPECTING JAP GUARDS WERE TAKEN COMPLETELY BY SURPRISE.
UGH!
PAHOA'S ISLANDERS HAD BEEN TRAINED WELL. NOT A SOUND WAS HEARD.

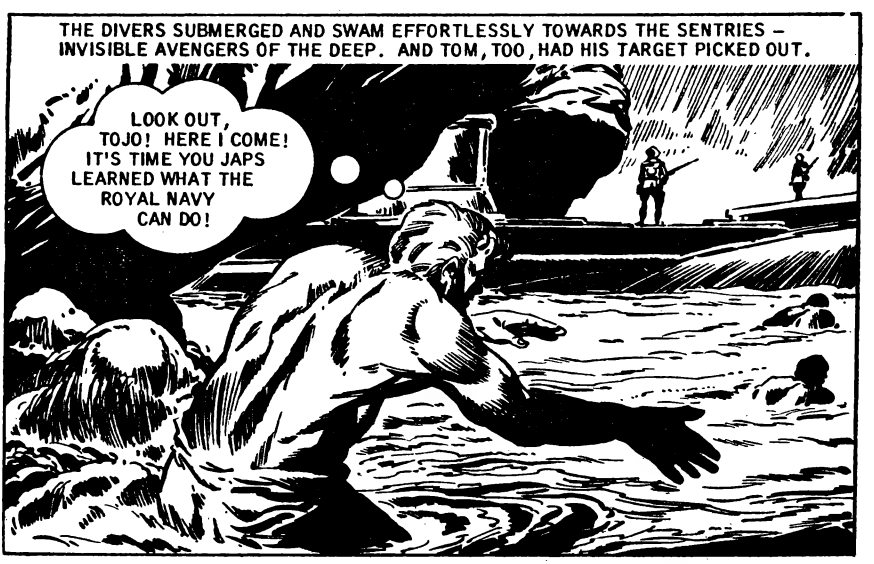
WITHIN MINUTES THEY WERE IN THE COMPOUND, RELEASING SURPRISED AND STARTLED PRISONERS.
COME ON, LADS. LET'S GET OUT OF HERE – AND DON'T MAKE A NOISE. WE DON'T WANT TO ROUSE THE JAPS.
CHIEF FORD! I MUST BE DREAMING. WHERE DID YOU SPRING FROM?

AND SO WHILE THE CELEBRATING JAPS DRANK THEIR RICE WINE AND BECAME MORE STUPIFIED, THE CAMP WAS EVACUATED.
LET'S HAVE THAT BOTTLE OVER HERE!

THEY HELPED EACH OTHER, DETERMINED THAT NONE SHOULD BE LEFT BEHIND AND MADE THEIR WAY TOWARDS THE SHORE... AND FREEDOM.
COME ON, MATE, NOT FAR TO GO NOW.

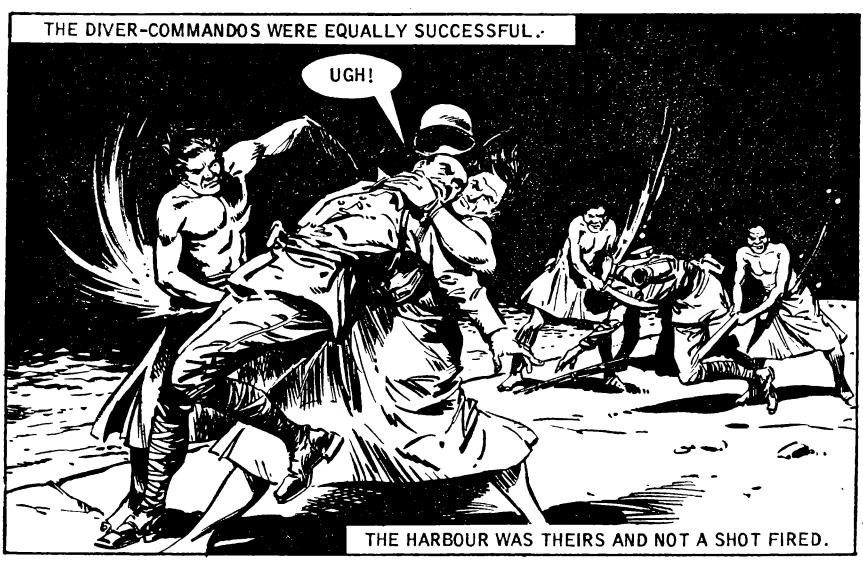
MEANWHILE TOM AND HIS CORAL-DIVER COMMANDOS WERE ALSO BUSY.
THESE CAVES LEADING FROM KAMITUSA ARE IDEAL FOR A SURPRISE ATTACK. BY THE TIME THE GUARDS REALISE WHAT IS HAPPENING, IT WILL BE TOO LATE.

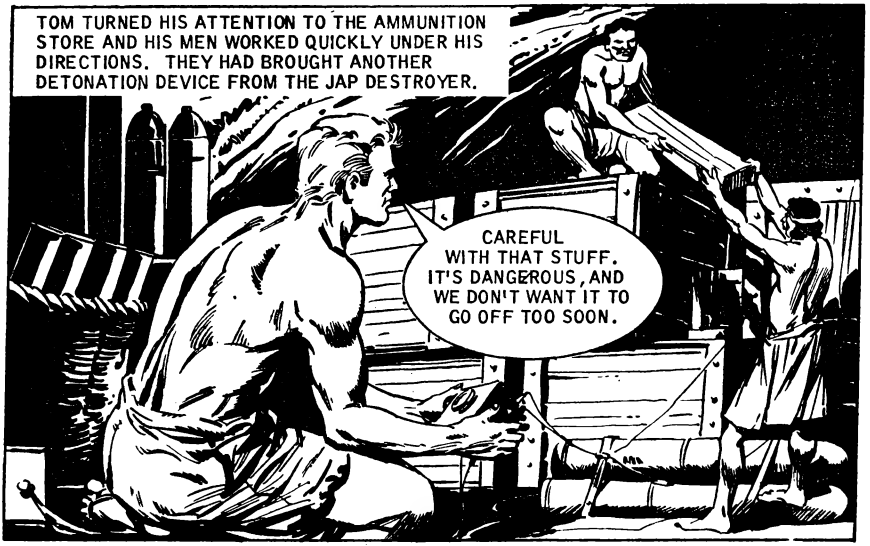
CAREFULLY AND SILENTLY THEY SURFACED AND WATCHED THE SENTRIES IN THE SUBMARINE BAY.
RIGHT, MEN. YOU KNOW WHAT TO DO. GOOD LUCK!


THE DIVERS SUBMERGED AND SWAM EFFORTLESSLY TOWARDS THE SENTRIES – INVISIBLE AVENGERS OF THE DEEP. AND TOM, TOO, HAD HIS TARGET PICKED OUT.
LOOK OUT, TOJO! HERE I COME! IT'S TIME YOU JAPS LEARNED WHAT THE ROYAL NAVY CAN DO!

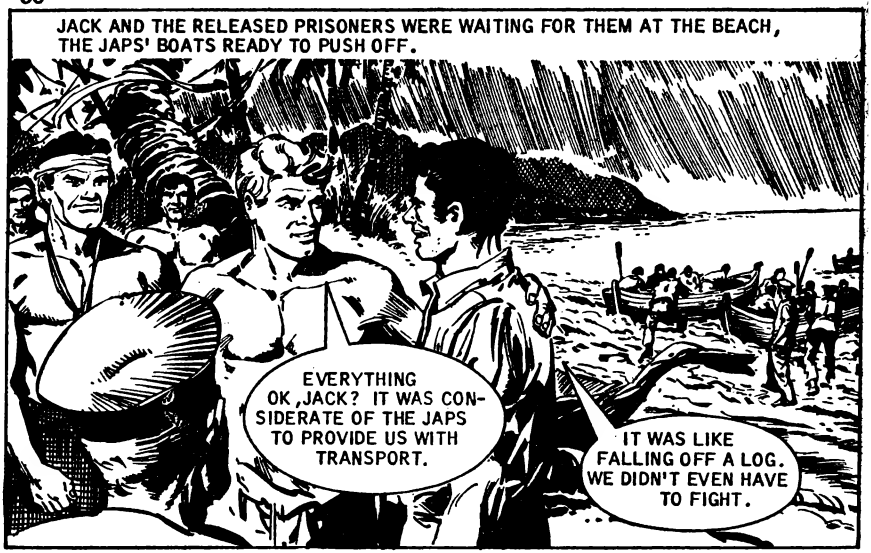
WITHOUT MAKING A SOUND HE CLIMBED FROM THE WATER, PICKING UP A HEAVY STICK.
GOOD! HE HASN'T HEARD ME.

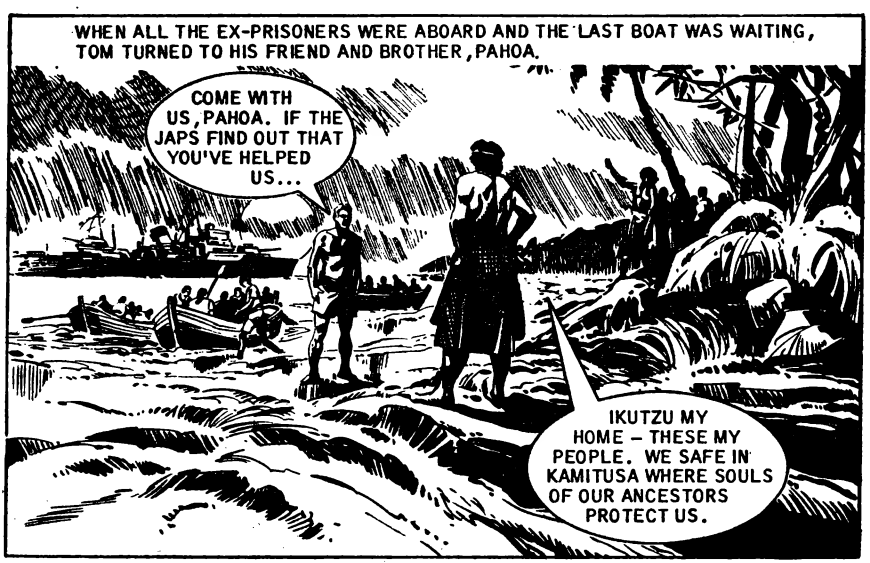
ONE BLOW AND IT WAS ALL OVER.
SWEET DREAMS!

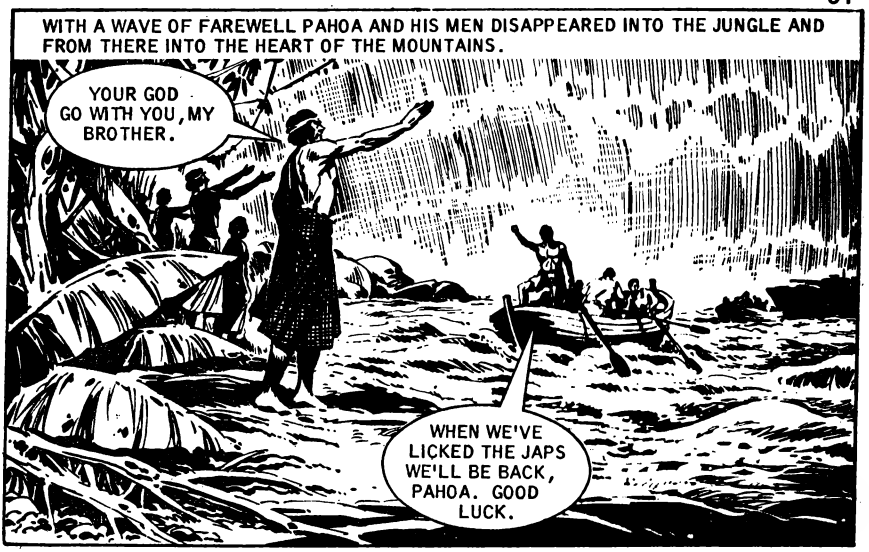

THE DIVER-COMMANDOS WERE EQUALLY SUCCESSFUL.
UGH!
THE HARBOUR WAS THEIRS AND NOT A SHOT FIRED.

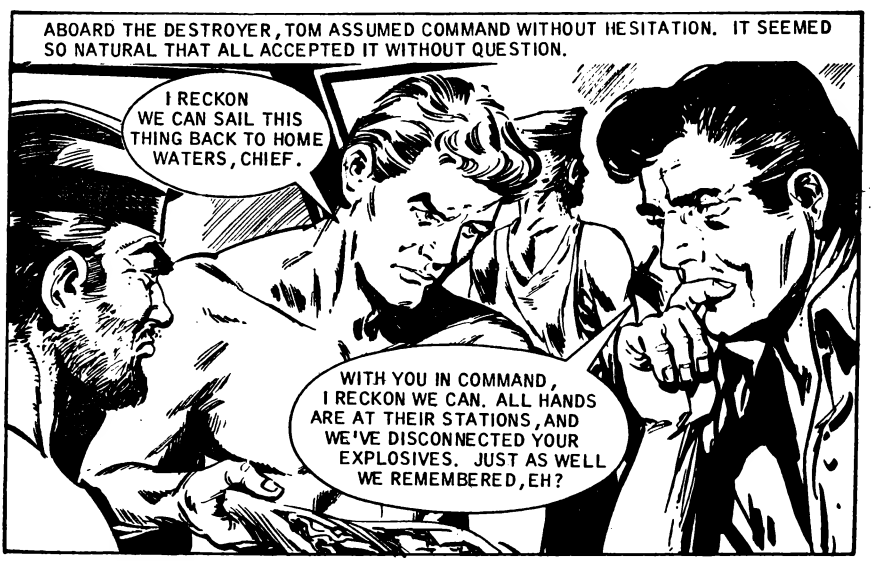

TOM TURNED HIS ATTENTION TO THE AMMUNITION STORE AND HIS MEN WORKED QUICKLY UNDER HIS DIRECTIONS. THEY HAD BROUGHT ANOTHER DETONATION DEVICE FROM THE JAP DESTROYER.
CAREFUL WITH THAT STUFF. IT'S DANGEROUS, AND WE DON'T WANT IT TO GO OFF TOO SOON.

EXPLOSIVES FOR THE TORPEDO WARHEADS WERE PLACED IN STRATEGIC POINTS IN THE CAVERN AND AMONG THE WAITING KAIRYU AND THEIR "MOTHER-SUBMARINES".
OFF YOU GO. I'LL SEE YOU ON THE BEACH. I WOULDN'T WANT TO BE AROUND WHEN THIS LITTLE LOT GOES OFF.

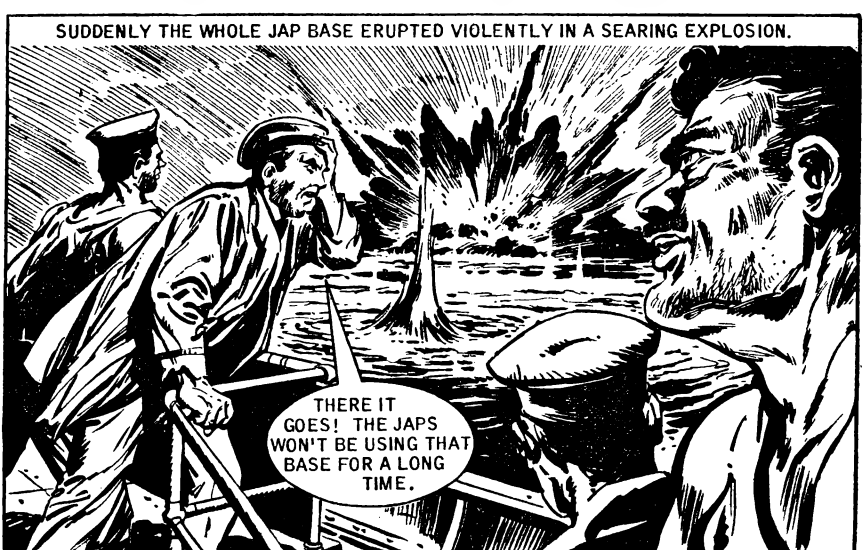

JACK AND THE RELEASED PRISONERS WERE WAITING FOR THEM AT THE BEACH, THE JAPS' BOATS READY TO PUSH OFF.
EVERYTHING OK, JACK? IT WAS CONSIDERATE OF THE JAPS TO PROVIDE US WITH TRANSPORT.
IT WAS LIKE FALLING OFF A LOG. WE DIDN'T EVEN HAVE TO FIGHT.


WHEN ALL THE EX-PRISONERS WERE ABOARD AND THE LAST BOAT WAS WAITING, TOM TURNED TO HIS FRIEND AND BROTHER, PAHOA.
COME WITH US, PAHOA. IF THE JAPS FIND OUT THAT YOU'VE HELPED US...
IKUTZU MY HOME – THESE MY PEOPLE. WE SAFE IN KAMITUSA WHERE SOULS OF OUR ANCESTORS PROTECT US.


WITH A WAVE OF FAREWELL PAHOA AND HIS MEN DISAPPEARED INTO THE JUNGLE AND FROM THERE INTO THE HEART OF THE MOUNTAINS.
YOUR GOD GO WITH YOU, MY BROTHER.
WHEN WE'VE LICKED THE JAPS WE'LL BE BACK, PAHOA. GOOD LUCK.


ABOARD THE DESTROYER, TOM ASSUMED COMMAND WITHOUT HESITATION. IT SEEMED SO NATURAL THAT ALL ACCEPTED IT WITHOUT QUESTION.
I RECKON WE CAN SAIL THIS THING BACK TO HOME WATERS, CHIEF.
WITH YOU IN COMMAND, I RECKON WE CAN. ALL HANDS ARE AT THEIR STATIONS, AND WE'VE DISCONNECTED YOUR EXPLOSIVES. JUST AS WELL WE REMEMBERED, EH?

FORTUNATELY THE EX-PRISONERS WERE ALL SAILORS AND QUICKLY ADAPTED THEMSELVES. AS THEY SLIPPED THE ANCHOR AND BEGAN TO SLIDE AWAY THROUGH THE NIGHT, TOM LOOKED AT HIS WATCH.
SHE SHOULD BE GOING UP IN ABOUT TWO MINUTES.
STAND BY FOR FIREWORKS.


SUDDENLY THE WHOLE JAP BASE ERUPTED VIOLENTLY IN A SEARING EXPLOSION.
THERE IT GOES! THE JAPS WON'T BE USING THAT BASE FOR A LONG TIME.

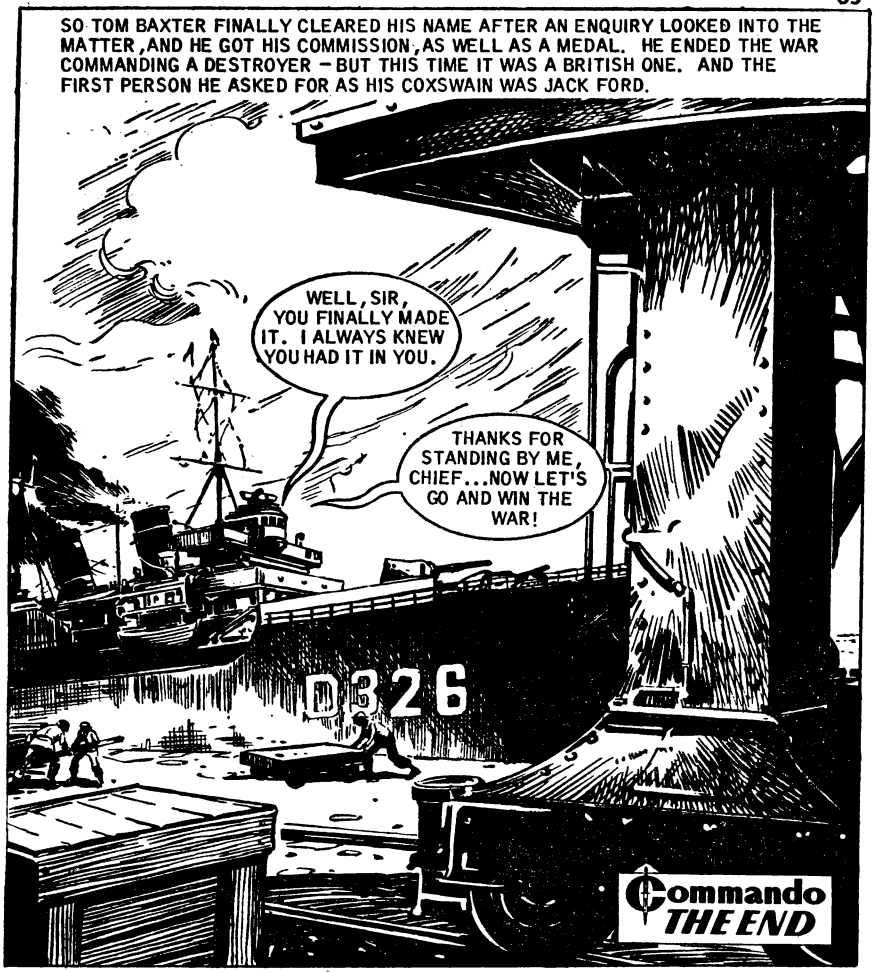
AND ON THE ISLAND THERE WAS COMPLETE DEVASTATION. MOST OF THE JAPS DIED BEFORE THEY KNEW WHAT HAD HAPPENED.
AIEEE!
THE MIDGET SUB PILOTS HAD GIVEN THEIR LIVES FOR THEIR COUNTRY AFTER ALL.

COLONEL TIKADO WAS LUCKIER THAN MOST AND HE FLED INTO THE JUNGLE TO ESCAPE...
I MUST GET AWAY. I DON'T WANT TO DIE!

SUDDENLY A HUGE FIGURE ROSE FROM THE TALL GRASS TO GREET HIM. PAHOA HAD WAITED FOR THIS MOMENT.
WAIT! I...I'LL GIVE YOU ANYTHING YOU WANT, BUT DON'T KILL ME!
MY SWORD MAKE ANSWER FOR ALL MY PEOPLE.

AND AS COLONEL TIKADO JOINED HIS ANCESTORS A JAPANESE DESTROYER HEADED FOR THE OPEN SEA.
IT TAKES MORE THAN A FEW JAPS TO STOP THE SENIOR SERVICE. FULL AHEAD!

A FEW DAYS LATER A VERY SURPRISED CAPTAIN OF A BRITISH CRUISER RECEIVED A MESSAGE FROM A JAPANESE DESTROYER...IN ENGLISH.
THE DEVIL! I'M SEEING THINGS. HOW DO YOU READ THAT MESSAGE, YEOMAN?
"DON'T... SHOOT...THIS... IS...A...PRESENT... FROM...TOJO..."


SO TOM BAXTER FINALLY CLEARED HIS NAME AFTER AN ENQUIRY LOOKED INTO THE MATTER, AND HE GOT HIS COMMISSION, AS WELL AS A MEDAL. HE ENDED THE WAR COMMANDING A DESTROYER – BUT THIS TIME IT WAS A BRITISH ONE. AND THE FIRST PERSON HE ASKED FOR AS HIS COXSWAIN WAS JACK FORD.
WELL, SIR, YOU FINALLY MADE IT. I ALWAYS KNEW YOU HAD IT IN YOU.
THANKS FOR STANDING BY ME, CHIEF...NOW LET'S GO AND WIN THE WAR!
D326
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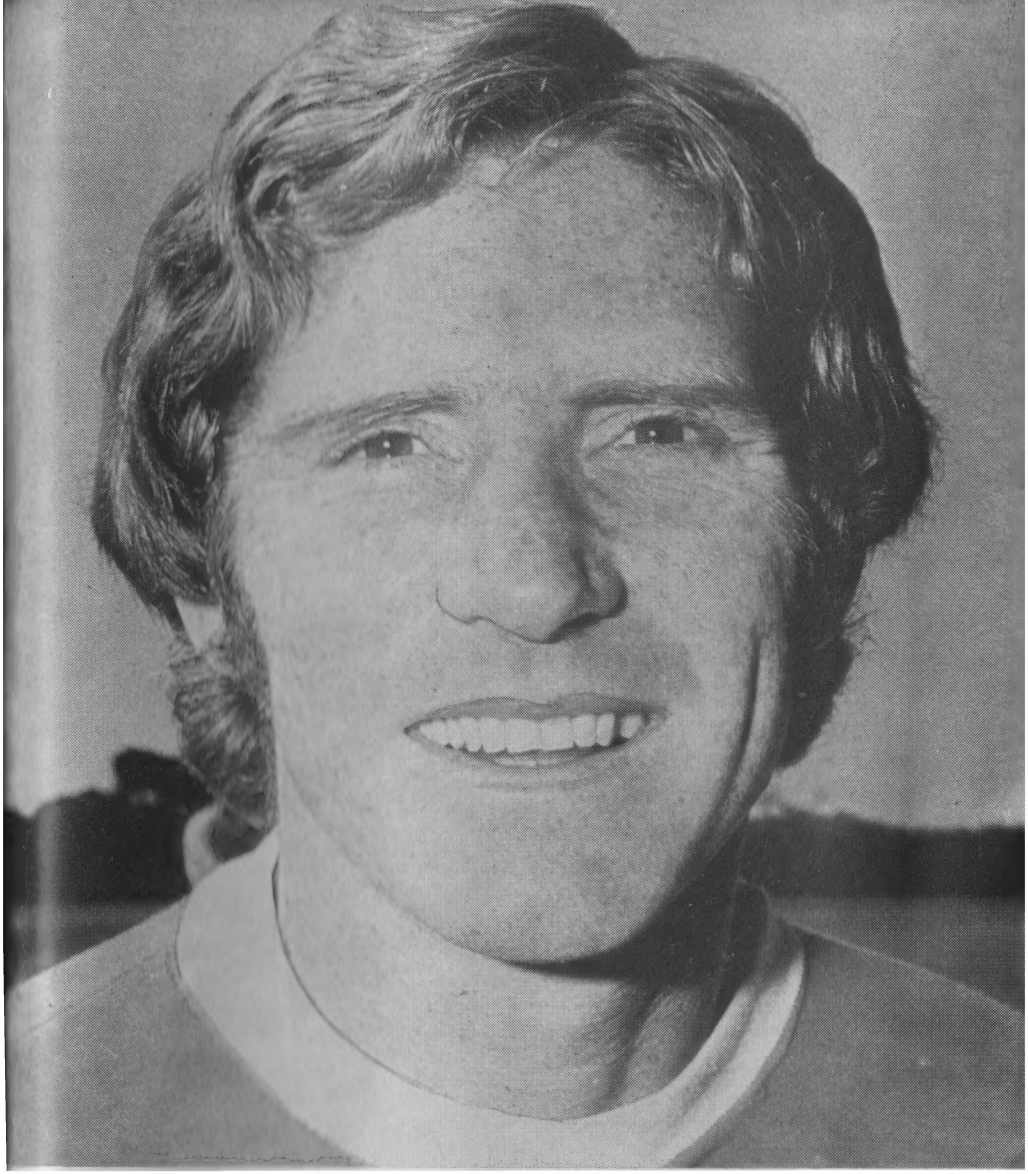

Stars of Soccer—Alan Ball

THE SECRET SUBS

THEY were called Kairyu — Japanese two-man midget submarines whose torpedoes could sink a battleship. Their base was a small, almost unknown island in the Pacific. Only one man could stop them from wreaking havoc on Allied shipping — Ordinary Seaman Tom Baxter of the Royal Navy. But Tom reckoned the Navy had done him no favours, so why should he do it one now?

Commando